

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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State Overview

NEW IN THIS ISSUE...

All labor force and nonfarm jobs data tables for the state and regions are located after the state, regional and FYI reports. This should improve the flow of the text for easier reading. Each article will refer the reader to the page where the accompanying data can be found. New headers for each area are also new this month.

State Overview

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IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 2.5 PERCENT

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate moved upward in October to 2.5 percent. The end of harvest, the traditional fall slowdown in tourism and construction and a lull in retail trade added nearly 1,400 workers to the ranks of the jobless, the highest one-month increase in 30 years.

The rate was two-tenths above September's record-tying low of 2.3 percent and eight-tenths below October 2006. October's rate has not increased two-tenths of a point since 1981 but that was at a time when unemployment was over 7 percent.

Despite the increase, October marks the ninth straight month of unemployment rates under 3 percent and the 27th month in an historic streak of rates below 4 percent. Even with an increase from September, the number of unemployed workers remained below 20,000.

The economy appears to be showing signs of slowing down. Nationally, unemployment remained unchanged at 4.7 percent, the 73rd month that Idaho's unemployment rate has been below the nation's.

A decline of 3,200 in the statewide labor pool and a drop of 4,600 from September's record employment reflected seasonal patterns. The bulk of October's decline came in recreation, hotels and restaurants. Higher employment in public education offset a decline from September in construction, where commercial projects are not completely filling the gap created by a decline in home building. Seasonal job losses occur because cold, wet weather affects road construction and recreation and tourism-related jobs typically experience a lull between summer and winter activities. Students return to school and their jobs — life guards at swimming pools, lawn mowers and camp counselors for example — typically are not filled.

Despite the modest increase in unemployment, Idaho's economy remained one of the strongest in the nation and its rate the lowest. The state also

Amended Form I-9 and New Handbook for Employers Introduced

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has published a notice in the [November 26 Federal Register](#) to introduce the newly amended Form I-9, "Employment Eligibility Verification."

Employers are required to use Form I-9 to verify the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employees. The amended Form I-9 contains an updated list of acceptable identity and employment authorization documents that reflect the current regulations.

As of Nov. 7, 2007, the amended Form I-9 is the only valid version of the form. The Department of Homeland Security will not seek penalties against an employer for using a previous version of the Form I-9 on or before Dec. 26, 2007. Fines of up to \$1,100 per form could be assessed from that point on.

For a copy of the notice, go to: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-5790.pdf>

posted the lowest unemployment rates in the country in May, July, August and September.

Nearly 18,000 more people were working than in October 2006, a 2.5 percent increase compared to the national employment increase of just a half percent.

AREA LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

There are 369 metropolitan statistical areas in the nation for which unadjusted unemployment rates are published each month. These rates are not adjusted to reflect the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year. For the past several months the lowest unemployment rates have been posted in Idaho. The Idaho Falls metro area for the fourth consecutive month reported the lowest metro rate in the United States at 1.3 percent in October followed by Pocatello at 1.9 percent and the Boise-Nampa and Coeur d'Alene metropolitan areas at 2 percent. The Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, La.; Logan, Utah, and Lafayette, La., metro areas also reported unemployment rates of 2 percent. The fifth metro area in Idaho, Lewiston, ranked 31st with an unadjusted rate of 2.7 percent. The micropolitan and small labor market areas were not ranked nationally.

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for the 10 labor market areas in Idaho — Boise metropolitan area, Burley micropolitan area, Coeur d'Alene metro area, Grangeville small labor market area, Hailey small labor market, Idaho Falls metro area, Lewiston metro area, Pocatello metro area, Rexburg micro area and Twin Falls micro area. The table on page 26 lists the counties located in each labor market area with October labor market statistics.

Coeur d'Alene is the only single county metro area in the state. It had the second largest percentage of the labor force and total employment at 9.1 percent. The number of unemployed accounted for 10.8 percent of the state total. October's unemployment rate, 3 percent, was down from the October 2006 rate of 3.6 and significantly below the October 2002 rate of 6.9 percent. Industries which provide more than 1,000 jobs are retail trade, accommodations and food services, local government including education, health care, construction, administrative services and professional, scientific and technical services. Coeur d'Alene, the major city in the area, has experienced significant population growth and attracts many tourists and business conferences. With a labor force of 22,600, the unemployment rate was one of the lowest in the state at 2.5 percent in October. More information about this area can be found in the Panhandle section of the newsletter starting on page 9.

The Grangeville area had the smallest share of the state's labor force at 1.1 percent. The area's 361 unemployed workers comprise only 1.9 percent of the state total, but it results in a 4.2 percent unemployment rate, the highest among designated labor market areas. This October's unemployment rate was down from 6.4 percent in October 2006. Industries with more than 300 jobs are retail trade, local education, local government administration, wood products manufacturing, federal government and health care.

The traditional dividing line between northern and southern Idaho is the Salmon River. It joins the Snake River in the northern portion of Hells Canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border. The Snake River flows north until it turns west at the confluence of the Clearwater River near Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Wash. The two cities are the nexus of the Lewiston metro area, which is comprised of Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington. The area is often

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or to the Regional Economists noted in each area news section.

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referred to as the “Seaport” area because of its inland ports used primarily to barge wheat through the Snake/Columbia River system to the Portland area. The Lewiston area’s unemployment rate ranged from 4.3 percent in January to 2.9 percent in June. In recent years the area has experienced a slowdown in population growth, and job losses in lumber manufacturing and other manufacturing industries resulted in higher unemployment rates. However, 2007 has experienced a turnaround in nonfarm jobs which has driven unemployment rates down. The October unemployment rate was 3.3 percent, still above the statewide average but below the 3.9 percent recorded for October 2006.

The Boise metro area has 39.6 percent of the state’s labor force and total employment. Forty percent of the state’s unemployed live there. In March 2003 the unemployment rate had risen to 5.5 percent following five years of unemployment rates at or below 4 percent. In 2004 the unemployment rate once again dipped to the 4 percent range. For the next 18 months the rate was in the 3 percent range. Since July 2006 the unemployment rate in the metro area has been below 3 percent with the lowest rate occurring in July 2007 at 2.2 percent. The current rate of 2.6 percent is two-tenths of a percentage point below the October 2006 rate. Industries that are driving the area’s economy with more than 14,000 jobs include health care, administrative and support services, accommodations and food services, retail trade, construction and computer and electronic products manufacturing. More information on this area can be found in the southwestern Idaho section of the newsletter.

There are three labor market areas in south central Idaho. Two combine counties that straddle the Snake River. The Twin Falls micro area includes Jerome and Twin Falls counties and the Burley area includes Cassia and Minidoka counties. These areas rely heavily on agriculture and depend upon the Snake River system with its enormous underground aquifer for irrigation water. Twin Falls is the region’s population center and has an increasingly diverse economy amid robust population growth. This usually means Twin Falls has a lower unemployment rate and is less seasonally volatile. For October, the unemployment rate was 2 percent for the Twin Falls area, a full percentage point below October 2006. The Burley area has experienced economic growth in the past year, and the number of persons employed has increased and the unemployment rate dropped. Since the J.R. Simplot plant closed in November 2003, over 2,000 more people are working in a variety of industries. The unemployment rate has dropped from 7.3 percent in November 2003 to 2.4 percent this fall. The third area, Hailey, includes Blaine and Camas counties. The industrial makeup of the area is very different with accommodations and food services, construction, government and retail trade dominating. The area also has a low unemployment rate, 2.1 percent in October.

The three areas in eastern Idaho encompass Pocatello, Idaho Falls and Rexburg. The Pocatello metro area is a combination of Bannock and Power counties. It has enjoyed a decade of population growth and economic diversification that has helped mitigate earlier job losses in chemicals and railroads. At 2.3 percent, the October unemployment rate was slightly below the statewide rate and well below the 3 percent from one year earlier. Pocatello had the second lowest unadjusted unemployment rate in the nation. In the past five years, the unemployment rate has dropped from 5.6 percent. The area has also added 4,500 jobs in the last five years. Up the Snake River from Bannock County lies the two-county Idaho Falls area, which is known for potatoes and atoms. This is not to downplay the importance of almost all the service-providing industries, but its significant potato growing, processing and support businesses along with the nuclear-focused Idaho National Laboratory are key to area’s economy and stability. The unemployment rate usually has been below the state’s in recent years, and October was no exception at 1.6 percent. For the last four months this area has had the lowest unadjusted unemployment rate in the nation. The Rexburg area, encompassing Madison and Fremont counties, is dominated by a four-year private university — Brigham Young University-Idaho with over 13,000 full-time and part-time students. The two counties only have a population of 43,762. Forty-one percent of that population is under 20 years of age. About 6,200 are college age — 20 to 24. Nearly one-fourth of the jobs are in education. Retail trade ranks second but has less than half the number as private education. There are nearly as many jobs in government as there are in private education. In October the Rexburg area had an unemployment rate of 2.9 percent. The rate has been under 4 percent for the past six years.

COUNTY LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

Only two rural counties reported unemployment rates of 6 percent or more. Clearwater County had the highest rate at 6.7 percent. A year earlier, seven rural counties posted jobless rates of 6 percent or more. Clearwater also had the highest rate then at 8.6 percent. Boundary was next at 7.4 percent.

The lowest unemployment rate in October was 1.2 percent in Power County. The low rate was due to a major food processing plant operating at full capacity and many workers involved in harvest activities and packing sheds. Twenty-eight additional counties reported rates under 3 percent. One year ago there were only 12 counties below 3 percent ranging from Bear Lake, Boise and Jefferson at 2.9 percent to Teton at 1.9 percent.

A comparison of October 2007 to October 2006 shows that only two counties, Teton and Valley, reported an increase in the number of unemployed — 12 and 4, respectively. Nearly three-fourths of the counties reported more

people working than a year ago, ranging from over 5,000 in Ada County to just over 10 in Boundary, Butte and Lewis counties.

AGRICULTURE JOBS

October is a transition month for Idaho's agricultural labor force, which reaches its seasonal high. The number of workers handling irrigation and crop growing duties decreases as harvest activities peak. The potato harvest starts to wind down just as the sugar beet harvest gets started. Not only are field harvest workers in demand, but truck drivers, warehouse workers for sorting and packing jobs and food processors fill the employment ranks.

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

There were 3,200 fewer nonfarm payroll jobs in October than in September, a half percentage point decline. This job loss was the first since July, the only other time so far this year there has been a month-over-month job loss. Two sectors experienced normal, seasonal changes — 3,600 in leisure and hospitality and 1,100 in administrative services — while public education payrolls rose by 3,300 as districts made fall accommodations to increased enrollment and college students took on work-study jobs. Otherwise, monthly industry gains and losses were essentially offsetting. Goods-producing industries had a net decline of 800 jobs, all in construction, while the service sector lost 2,400 jobs.

Among the noteworthy month-over-month changes were:

- Construction jobs declined for the third month after peaking at 55,200 in July
- Private education and health care each added 400 jobs. Private higher education schools also added work-study jobs and hospitals added additional staff during October.
- Food processing activity was mixed as potato processing slowed, shedding 100 jobs, while sugar beet processing picked up, adding about 400 jobs.
- Seasonal factors caused the reductions in leisure and hospitality of 3,600 jobs — 1,300 in recreation, 1,600 in restaurants and 700 in hotels. In Idaho's tourism and recreational circles, October and November are known as the slack season between warm, sunny summer days and snow-covered ski slopes.

The year-over-year changes in Idaho's employment structure were mixed. Goods-producing industries were down while service sector jobs were up. In the last 12 months, Idaho added 15,800 jobs for a 2.4 percent growth rate. Since January 2007, it is estimated Idaho has added 33,200 new nonfarm payroll jobs. The soft spot in this growth pattern continued to be computer and electronic product manufacturing, reflecting the layoffs at Micron Technology last summer. Another soft spot is construction. October marked the sixth consecutive

month that the number of jobs was below the year ago level. As the housing market continues to struggle, the number of jobs will continue to decline, especially with the onset of the seasonal downturn for this sector.

A LOOK AT RETAIL TRADE

'Tis the season for increased activity in the retail trade sector.

Normally retail job growth is at its peak in the mid to late fall, heading into the holiday season.

But retail has been a major source of new jobs, especially since the national recession in 2001.

Although every region of the state saw retail employment contract in 2001 in the fallout from the national downturn, all six regions have seen significant growth since then.

Because figures are only available for 2007 through mid-year, the annual comparisons will be based on mid-year figures for both workers and number of establishments, or units. Estimates for the current number of jobs will be noted but can also be found in the nonfarm payroll table on page 28. State Table 1 on page 6 shows the number of establishments and jobs for 2nd quarter of each year for each region. State Table 2 shows the change in establishments and jobs between years. State Table 3 on page 7 shows the number of establishment and jobs by major retail sectors. Table 4 on page 8 shows the changes that have occurred in retail establishments and jobs since 2000 by major sector.

Among the findings:

- There were 83,200 jobs in the retail sector in Idaho in mid-2007.
- Those workers were employed by 6,432 establishments.
- All regions in the state have experienced growth in the number of retail jobs between mid-2000 and mid-2007.
- Every region experienced jobs losses in 2001 and job growth in 2006.
- The number of establishments has declined in seven of the 12 retail sectors.
- The number of jobs has declined in only two sectors — electronics and appliance stores and food and beverage stores. The largest decrease, in food and beverage stores, resulted from the sale of Albertsons to SuperValu, which continues to operate in Idaho but with fewer stores and the loss of several thousand workers.
- Significant growth has occurred in general merchandise stores. This includes the expansion of Wal-Mart, Target, JC Penney, Costco, Fred Meyer, Kohl's and others.
- Although there are only seven new establishments in the building materials sector, employment has expanded significantly. The expansion of Home Depot and Lowe's across the state has added hundreds of

employees. Many of the older establishments have experienced a reduction in the number of jobs but they remain part of Idaho's economy.

- Electronic and appliance stores have been adversely impacted by the growth of general merchandise stores that carry many of the same products at reduced prices. The one exception is Best Buy, which has expanded into the Nampa, Twin Falls and Idaho Falls markets.
- The largest nonretail sector was other direct selling establishments. This group went from 143 establishments averaging 3.17 jobs each in 2005 to 244 establishments averaging 2.75 jobs each in 2006. The largest employers were Schwan's Home Service and the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Planning & Development Corp. Nonretail stores include mail order stores, vendors, direct sales, fuel dealers and others. Examples include Coldwater Creek, NetFlix, Compass Group and Cowboy Oil.

Within the retail trade supersector, five sectors stand out because of their relatively large share of establishments and jobs.

- **Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers.** While vehicle repair shops are not included in this sector, large dealers have service personnel who are. The fact is almost every town has at least one used car lot. In 2006 this sector had the highest percentage of establishments in retail trade, 14.7 percent and 14.8 percent of the jobs, ranking it third.
- **Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers.** This sector includes lumberyards, paint and hardware stores and nurseries. It also includes home centers, which often are big box retailers of a wide array of building and household supplies. This sector had 10.8 percent of the establishments and 12.2 percent of the jobs.
- **Food and Beverage Stores.** This sector had 9.4 percent of the retail trade establishments in 2006 but 15.6 percent of the jobs, second highest in the supersector. Convenience stores are a confusing part of this sector. If a convenience store gets 50 percent of its income from gasoline sales, it is classified as a gas station. If it gets less, it is classified as a food store.
- **General Merchandise Stores.** This sector had 20.3 percent of retail trade jobs in 2006, but only 4.9 percent of the retail establishments. These stores sell a wide variety of products from a single location but usually from different departments. Sears, JC Penney, Kmart, Wal-Mart, Costco and Fred Meyer are familiar names to Idaho shoppers and are examples of general merchandise stores. They are often referred to as big box stores and are located in the major cities around the state.

- **Miscellaneous Stores Retailers.** This sector has the second largest number of establishments, 13.2 percent, but a relatively small number of the jobs, 6.2 percent. These establishments include florists, office supplies, gift shops, used merchandise and similar enterprises. These types of stores are generally staffed by the owner and one or two additional workers. Nearly half of the establishments have one to three workers.

State Table 5 on page 9 shows establishments and jobs by number of employees. In mid-2007, there were more establishments with one to four employees than any other size, 2,268. But those establishments had the smallest number of retail employees, just 5,138.

- Retailers with 250 or more employees consistently have the lowest percent of establishments.

Those with 250 to 500 employees showed the largest growth between 2000 and 2001. However, that may actually be a statistical quirk since a retailer with more than 500 jobs cut enough jobs in 2001 to drop into the lower classification. The asterisk denotes that there were fewer than three establishments in the size classification, precluding release of the information to the public.

While the number of retailers in each employee range has changed over the years, their relative percentages of the total have not. Interestingly, since 2000 the percentage of establishments with five to nine workers and 100 to 249 workers has declined even though there are more establishments in those classifications now than in 2000. At the same time, every classification except establishments with 50 to 99 workers and 250 to 499 workers has a smaller percentage of the total retail labor force now than in 2000.

This trend may indicate that as larger businesses come to the state, the smaller ones go by the wayside, accounting for an ever smaller share of retailing in Idaho.

Only north central Idaho lost establishments and jobs between mid-2006 and mid-2007 while retail establishments statewide increased by more than 500 and their payrolls by more than 7,000.

The final six months of 2007 will determine whether the holiday shopping season is a jolly one. Will retail trade continue to grow and prosper across the state or be adversely affected by the housing slowdown, credit crunch and rising consumer anxiety? These are the questions economists will be trying to answer. For now – 'Tis the season.....

More state data tables can be found starting on page 26.

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State Tables

State Table 1: 2nd Quarter Average Retail Establishments & Jobs by Region Sector: 2000-2007

Year	Measures	Statewide	North	North Central	East Central	South Central	Southeast	Southwest	Multi-County
2000	Units	5,950	918	518	762	864	623	2,186	79
	Avg Emp	73,552	10,632	5,818	8,988	9,420	7,215	31,171	308
2001	Units	5,897	895	509	744	860	610	2,203	76
	Avg Emp	72,593	10,313	5,712	8,971	9,393	7,134	30,678	392
2002	Units	5,796	864	519	719	841	583	2,206	64
	Avg Emp	72,091	10,229	5,957	9,010	9,316	7,028	30,206	344
2003	Units	5,935	903	515	727	851	598	2,278	63
	Avg Emp	71,922	10,181	5,972	9,271	9,363	7,084	29,849	201
2004	Units	5,712	887	496	731	823	572	2,145	58
	Avg Emp	73,454	10,892	5,986	9,465	9,248	6,920	30,741	202
2005	Units	5,895	932	501	762	848	582	2,217	53
	Avg Emp	75,859	11,260	5,878	9,869	9,488	6,928	32,326	110
2006	Units	6,157	941	507	799	869	585	2,362	94
	Avg Emp	79,621	11,823	5,986	10,372	9,898	7,154	34,245	142
2007	Units	6,432	991	504	843	871	593	2,499	131
	Avg Emp	83,221	12,700	5,879	10,773	10,136	7,261	36,245	227

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

State Table 2: 2nd Quarter Change in Retail Establishments & Jobs by Region Sector: 2000 - 2007

Year	Measures	Statewide	North	North Central	East Central	South Central	Southeast	Southwest	Multi-County
2000-01	Units	-53	-23	-9	-18	-4	-13	17	-3
	Avg Emp	-958	-320	-106	-17	-26	-81	-492	84
2001-02	Units	-101	-31	10	-25	-19	-27	3	-12
	Avg Emp	-502	-83	245	39	-77	-106	-472	-48
2002-03	Units	139	39	-4	8	10	15	72	-1
	Avg Emp	-169	-48	16	261	47	56	-357	-143
2003-04	Units	-223	-16	-19	4	-28	-26	-133	-5
	Avg Emp	1,532	711	13	194	-115	-164	892	1
2004-05	Units	183	45	5	31	25	10	72	-5
	Avg Emp	2,405	368	-108	404	240	8	1,585	-92
2005-06	Units	262	9	6	37	21	3	145	41
	Avg Emp	3,762	564	108	503	411	226	1,919	32
2006-07	Units	275	50	-3	44	2	8	137	37
	Avg Emp	3,600	876	-107	401	238	107	2,000	85
# Change 2000-07	Units	482	73	-14	81	7	-30	313	52
	Avg Emp	9,669	2,067	61	1,785	717	46	5,074	-81
# Change 2000-07	Units	8.1	8.0	-2.7	10.6	0.8	-4.8	14.3	65.8
	Avg Emp	13.1	19.4	1.0	19.9	7.6	0.6	16.3	-26.3

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

State Tables

State Table 3: Annual Average Retail Establishments & Jobs by Major Sector: 2000 - 2006 *(continued below)*

Year	Measures	441 Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	442 Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	443 Electronics & Appliance Stores	444 Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers	445 Food & Beverage Stores	446 Health & Personal Care Stores
2000	Units	836	355	365	660	635	313
	Emp	10,356	2,582	2,882	7,439	16,201	2,432
2001	Units	854	335	389	669	593	317
	Emp	10,400	2,478	2,602	7,436	13,105	2,701
2002	Units	850	317	387	644	575	303
	Emp	10,596	2,439	2,466	7,648	12,539	2,766
2003	Units	855	315	374	646	591	304
	Emp	10,815	2,387	2,508	7,659	12,399	2,823
2004	Units	860	301	361	654	579	307
	Emp	11,133	2,501	2,582	8,284	12,096	2,881
2005	Units	880	310	346	672	568	308
	Emp	11,470	2,719	2,785	9,001	12,174	2,989
2006	Units	906	328	322	667	578	301
	Emp	11,952	3,063	2,706	9,787	12,554	2,984

State Table 3 *(cont. from above)*: Annual Average Retail Establishments & Jobs by Major Sector: 2000 - 2006

Year	Measures	447 Gasoline Stations	448 Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	451 Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book & Music Stores	452 General Merchandise Stores	453 Miscellaneous Store Retailers	454 Nonstore Retailers
2000	Units	550	518	495	228	773	181
	Emp	5,321	3,735	4,229	13,030	4,707	1,672
2001	Units	563	505	480	235	772	179
	Emp	5,336	3,811	4,225	14,315	4,622	1,563
2002	Units	556	491	487	247	764	177
	Emp	5,242	3,790	4,268	14,707	4,497	1,409
2003	Units	555	497	477	249	763	190
	Emp	5,156	3,722	4,206	15,030	4,508	1,386
2004	Units	555	475	466	254	754	214
	Emp	5,006	3,763	4,221	15,357	4,524	1,331
2005	Units	554	490	458	275	767	311
	Emp	5,127	3,958	4,268	15,931	4,673	1,630
2006	Units	548	504	460	304	813	439
	Emp	5,390	4,274	4,464	16,307	4,986	2,036

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

State Tables

State Table 4: Change in Retail Establishments & Jobs by Major Sector: 2000 - 2006 *(continued below)*

Year	Measures	441 Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	442 Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	443 Electronics & Appliance Stores	444 Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers	445 Food & Beverage Stores	446 Health & Personal Care Stores
2000-2001	Units	18	-20	24	9	-41	5
	Emp	44	-104	-280	-3	-3,095	269
2001-02	Units	-5	-18	-2	-25	-19	-15
	Emp	196	-39	-137	212	-566	65
2002-03	Units	6	-3	-13	2	17	1
	Emp	219	-52	42	11	-140	57
2003-04	Units	5	-13	-13	8	-13	3
	Emp	317	114	74	625	-303	58
2004-05	Units	20	8	-15	18	-11	1
	Emp	337	218	203	717	78	108
2005-06	Units	26	18	-23	-5	11	-7
	Emp	482	344	-79	787	380	-5
# Change 2000-2006	Units	69	-27	-43	7	-57	-12
	Emp	1,596	481	-176	2,349	-3,647	552
% Change 2000-2006	Units	8.3	-7.6	-11.7	1.0	-8.9	-3.8
	Emp	15.4	18.6	-6.1	31.6	-22.5	22.7

State Table 4 *(continued)*: Change in Retail Establishments & Jobs by Major Sector: 2000 - 2006

Year	Measures	447 Gasoline Stations	448 Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	451 Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book & Music Stores	452 General Merchandise Stores	453 Miscellaneous Store Retailers	454 Nonstore Retailers
2000-01	Units	14	-13	-15	7	-1	-2
	Emp	16	77	-4	1,285	-84	-108
2001-02	Units	-8	-15	7	12	-8	-2
	Emp	-94	-21	43	392	-125	-154
2002-03	Units	0	6	-10	2	-1	13
	Emp	-85	-69	-62	323	11	-23
2003-04	Units	-1	-22	-11	5	-8	24
	Emp	-150	41	15	327	16	-55
2004-05	Units	0	15	-8	21	13	97
	Emp	121	195	48	574	149	299
2005-06	Units	-7	13	2	29	46	128
	Emp	263	316	196	376	313	406
# Change 2000-06	Units	-2	-14	-35	75	41	258
	Emp	70	539	235	3,277	279	364
% Change 2000-06	Units	-0.4	-2.8	-7.0	33.0	5.2	142.3
	Emp	1.3	14.4	5.6	25.1	5.9	21.8

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

State Tables

State Table 5: Size of Firm for Retail Trade: 2nd Quarter 2000–2007

Time Period	Measures	SIZE CLASS								
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000+
2nd Quarter 2000	Units	2,131	1,542	979	496	166	109	7	*	*
	Avg Emp	4,941	10,287	12,840	14,260	11,477	14,813	1,990	*	*
2nd Quarter 2001	Units	2,077	1,513	971	502	182	82	17		
	Avg Emp	4,915	10,134	12,545	14,390	13,126	11,599	5,587		
2nd Quarter Q2-02	Units	2,017	1,518	982	474	183	80	19		
	Avg Emp	4,804	10,111	12,723	13,772	13,022	11,301	6,149		
2nd Quarter 2003	Units	2,008	1,588	979	482	181	79	18		
	Avg Emp	4,657	10,456	12,722	13,667	12,679	11,147	6,394		
2nd Quarter 2004	Units	2,036	1,461	995	494	184	80	19	*	
	Avg Emp	4,744	9,638	13,010	14,332	12,975	11,523	6,599	*	
2nd Quarter 2005	Units	2,077	1,474	966	498	197	86	21	*	
	Avg Emp	4,828	9,859	12,698	14,275	13,679	12,170	7,205	*	
2nd Quarter 2006	Units	2,108	1,475	1,033	528	218	91	20	*	
	Avg Emp	4,800	9,666	13,606	15,045	13,580	12,872	7,349	*	
2nd Quarter 2007	Units	2,268	1,445	1,061	553	211	99	23	*	
	Avg Emp	5,138	9,579	13,928	15,873	14,878	14,737	8,129	*	

* fewer than three establishments in the size classification

Source: Idaho Department of Labor



Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

After four years of strong job growth, the Coeur d'Alene metropolitan statistical area is slowing, waiting to see how the U.S. economy reacts to rising fuel costs, a falling dollar, a crumbling housing market and decreased credit availability. If the U.S. economy avoids a recession as many economists expect, things should continue to go well for the Idaho Panhandle.

The Coeur d'Alene area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 2.6 percent in September to 3 percent in October as some major construction projects came to an end, housing starts slowed further and logging and wood products manufacturing lost jobs. Despite the monthly increase, the unemployment rate remained six-tenths of a percentage below October 2006. The labor market continues to be tight with many employers reporting difficulties recruiting and keeping workers.

Although unemployment rates in the other Panhandle counties were higher than in Kootenai County, they re-

mained near their historic lows set in recent months. Only Boundary County, where the timber industry has been shedding jobs, had an unemployment rate above 5 percent. Its rate of 6 percent, however, was significantly lower than the 7.4 percent 12 months earlier. Despite a slowdown in construction and persistent problems very low prices are causing logging and lumber, the Panhandle counties continued to enjoy job growth in fall 2007. Most have fairly high expectations for 2008 unless the U.S. enters a recession.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

SNOWFALL BRINGS CASH WINDFALLS TO REGION

- As usual, Lookout Pass was the first northern Idaho ski area to open for the season. The ski area along Interstate 90 near the Idaho-Montana border, which employs about 80 people, opened Nov. 29. Work was still under way on Lookout's new North Star lift, which soon will be taking skiers and snowboarders to the six new runs on the north side of the mountain.

Lookout's terrain has nearly tripled in size since 2003.

- Silver Mountain Resort's ski area, accessed by a gondola running from Kellogg, opened in early December. The resort also just opened a snowtubing park, Prospector Adventure Zone, accessed by a moving carpet lift. Next spring Silver Rapids, an indoor water park as large as a football field, will open in the village. The Silver Mountain ski area employs about 250 people.
- Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint, which is Idaho's largest ski area with 2,900 skiable acres, also opened in early December. About 650 people work at Schweitzer during the season. With all the publicity it has been receiving, Schweitzer is likely to host record numbers of out-of-state visitors this winter. In November, tripadvisor.com, a travel Web site with nearly 30 million visitors a month, named Schweitzer Mountain Resort one of the 10 most overlooked ski destinations. It was impressed with the affordability of lift tickets, lodging and nightlife. A Dec. 2 article in The New York Times stated, "Schweitzer Mountain Resort, an under-the-radar ski hill in northern Idaho, was recently ranked by Skiing Magazine among North America's top 25 resorts. In addition, skiers can expect shorter lift lines this season as the mountain opens two new chairlifts — a triple and a high-speed quad — boosting capacity by 28 percent."
- With forecasts for more snow, it also looks like a good winter for snowmobilers. Good snow conditions for skiers, snowmobilers and other winter sport enthusiasts is great news for the motels, restaurants and retail stores that rely on them to make it through what would otherwise be very lean months in Shoshone and Bonner counties.

TOUGH TIMES REDUCE LUMBER JOBS

- The lumber industry is going through extremely tough times since the summer of 2006 when U.S. housing starts began to fall. In the last three months, lumber prices have hovered around \$260 per thousand board feet, their lowest level since the early 1980s. Several mills in the Panhandle have been forced to shut down, some for a few weeks but others permanently, because the very low prices for their products have been compounded by rising fuel and energy costs. Log prices have remained relatively high, increasing the pressure on mills. Lumber production west of the Cascades plunged 16 percent from October 2006 to October 2007 as the result of shutdowns and layoffs. Despite the shutdowns, most experts say there still is a lot of excess capacity, and they don't expect a turnaround until fall 2008.

- Riley Creek Lumber Co. shut down its sawmill in Moyie Springs in November, putting 75 employees out of work for two weeks. It also will shut down for a week at Christmas. The Welco cedar mill near Naples also has experienced layoffs and shutdowns during the last year. In the summer of 2006, the two Boundary County mills employed about 250 workers. Now, they employ about half of that.
- Stimson Lumber recently sent most of the 55 workers at its Priest River sawmill home for a couple of weeks. It has been running reduced shifts for much of the year. It laid off about 50 workers from its De Armond mill in Coeur d'Alene last winter. Stimson is expected to shut down its four northern Idaho mills for a week or two at Christmas.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Mel Walton of Tensed opened Precision Tattoo Dec. 1 on the top floor of the Century 21 building in St. Maries.
- Larry Tetherow opened Larry's Truck Repair last month in St. Maries. He handles engine work, repair and maintenance for pickups, trailers and diesels. He also specializes in fabrication and welding.
- The Tri-Community Library in Fernwood has been remodeled to include new lighting and shelves. The 30-year old library operated by the Benewah Library District is expanding its offerings. It serves the communities of Fernwood, Emida and Santa.
- Plummer residents recently voted 130 to 48 for a \$4 million revenue bond to build a new sewage facility, which will allow the city to lift its building moratorium. Bond approval allowed the city to apply for a Community Development Block Grant. A decision on the grant request is due in March. The total cost of the project will be \$12 million.

BONNER COUNTY

- Thanks to Quest Aircraft, Litehouse Dressing, Unicep Packaging, Thorne Research, Diedrich Coffee Roasters and other manufacturers, Bonner County added 900 manufacturing jobs between the first quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2007 — more than any other county in Idaho. Coming in second was neighboring Kootenai County, which added 670. During that seven-year period, the U.S. lost nearly 3.2 million manufacturing jobs, a 19 percent decrease, and Idaho lost 2,620 jobs, about 4 percent of its manufacturing payroll. Bonner County's manufacturing jobs grew a spectacular 65 percent.
- The Cedar Street Bridge Public Market in downtown Sandpoint provides shoppers with international flavor. This summer, Pradeep and Jennifer Shrestha opened Where the Wind Blows. The store offers

home decor, jewelry and art from the U.S., India and Pradeep's homeland, Nepal. Manuela Frazier, who was born in Germany, soon will open a European-style café, where she and her employees will serve coffee drinks, gelatos, pastries, meats, cheeses and panini sandwiches. L'Atelier Jewelry Boutique opened at the bridge in September. It sells rings, necklaces, watches and accessories. Among its most popular items is jewelry featuring sterling silver and Idaho opals and garnets.

- Clark Fork, a town of 580 in eastern Bonner County, now has a bookstore. Berning Books, with more than 5,000 new and used books, also is a coffee house that offers wireless Internet access and musical entertainment.
- Stillwater Coffee Co. recently opened in Sagle, five miles south of Sandpoint. One of the owners, Pete Lindahl, is a master coffee roaster, who spent years as an apprentice on blending, roasting and making espresso. In addition to selling bags of his custom blends of organic and free trade coffee at its Sagle headquarters, Stillwater also sells to a growing group of coffee shops.
- Laughing Dog Brewing in Sandpoint recently won first place at the Fresh Hop Ale Festival for its Hop Dog ale made with locally grown hops. Earlier this year, Laughing Dog earned the North American Brewers gold award for its Devil Dog Imperial India Pale Ale, a silver medal for its CSB extra special bitter and a bronze medal for its popular Cream Ale. To keep up with growing demand, the two-year-old brewery is adding new equipment that will increase its capacity four-fold to 450 barrels per month. Laughing Dog, which makes eight different brews, has shipped about 800 tap handles to pubs throughout Idaho, Washington and Alaska. Laughing Dog currently employs 11 people.
- Black Sheep, a Coeur d'Alene-based sporting goods store, opened a temporary store in the former Kmart building in Ponderay in late November. The 84,000-square-foot building, which was most recently a Liquidation World, will be stocked with 60,000 square feet worth of merchandise for a warehouse sale. Black Sheep owner Dave Knoll has been considering adding a third store to its two stores in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston. Initially the Ponderay store will be open only on the weekends, and employ 10 people. It could become a seven-day-a-week venture. The initial response by local shoppers was very enthusiastic.
- At its annual gathering, Bonner County Economic Development Corp. recognized Coldwater Creek and Panhandle State Bank for their contributions to Bonner County's economy. The two businesses, which

have their corporate headquarters in Sandpoint, together employ nearly 500 people in the county.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- To kick off the Christmas season, downtown Coeur d'Alene sponsors a parade on the Friday after Thanksgiving that includes the lighting of the world's tallest living Christmas tree and of 1.5 million lights on various displays at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The climax of the lighting ceremony is a spectacular fireworks show. This year, 5,000 Coeur d'Alene residents came at 3 a.m. the following Thursday to restage the lighting ceremonies so it could be featured as one of the 15 best holiday lighting ceremonies in the U.S. on ABC's Good Morning America. Coordinated by Hagadone Corp. and KXLY, the ABC affiliate in Spokane, the two-hour event around the Coeur d'Alene Resort was expected to bring positive nationwide exposure to the area. About five million people watch *Good Morning America*. Not only will the broadcast attract tourists and possibly new residents, it may even help attract new businesses to the area.
- Bent Rebar LLC, a Coeur d'Alene fabricator of steel rods for reinforcing concrete, recently added a second shift and four more workers so it can supply rebar for more large construction jobs. It employs 10 on its day shift including four who work at the firm's office. The company opened in spring 2006 with just two small cutting and bending machines in its current office. In January, it opened its 11,000-square-foot shop, and moved in \$700,000 worth of state-of-the-art automated machinery for cutting and bending rebar.
- Super Supplements opened a 5,000-square-foot store in Coeur d'Alene, employing six to sell health supplements, vitamins and herbs for general health, weight loss and bodybuilding. Stores opening in the new mini-mall north of Super Supplements include Kimmel Athletic Supply, Allied Cash Advance, Wheat Montana and the Bangkok Thai Restaurant. Kimmel Athletic Supply Co., a Spokane-based supplier of sports team uniforms and equipment, opened a 2,600-square-foot retail store there because of growth in youth sports in Kootenai County. It employs six people. Wheat Montana opened a 2,200-square-foot deli and bakery with all-natural products. It employs 15. The Bangkok Thai Restaurant, which will open soon, will occupy 4,000 square feet and employ 20.
- Wag Water — specially formulated water that contains electrolytes to keep energy levels up, glucosamine to ease joint pain and additives to promote good health for dogs — is the product of PETZ Inc., a Coeur d'Alene company founded by veterinarian Dave Tester. A 16.9-ounce bottle sells for 99 cents

and can be handy for keeping dogs hydrated when they are ill or being exercised or transported. It has a special flavor that dogs like while having a longer shelf life than other flavored waters for dogs. PETZ Inc. currently employs six.

- The Inland Northwest's first electric care dealership opened in November near auto row along Interstate 90 in Post Falls. Go Green Electric Cars sells several different brands of cars, forklifts and scooters. Some electric cars can handle speeds up to 35 miles per hour and travel up to 50 miles before needing their batteries recharged. The dealership has six employees.
- Coeur d'Alene Honda, with 46 workers, has begun work on a \$3 million expansion of its complex just south of Interstate 90. It is constructing a 23,000-square-foot showroom and service building that will house the automotive portion of the dealership, which sells the full line of other Honda products from all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles to lawn mowers. Construction is expected to be completed in July, providing room for up to another 150 vehicles.
- Calypso's Coffee Co. opened in late November in downtown Coeur d'Alene. It serves a wide variety of coffee and fruit drinks, breakfast and lunch sandwiches, soups, salads and desserts.

- The Coeur d'Alene Pet Resort and Doggie Day Care, now open downtown, offers both overnight and day-time care of dogs and cats.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Two new businesses, Fire & Brimstone Extreme Sports and Quality Byte, hosted a grand opening in late November at their shared storefront in uptown Kellogg. The paintball and video gaming center offers entertainment for people of all ages. The Quality Byte store provides technology assistance and repair for computers including networking, security, backup, maintenance and software training. In addition, owner Ben Keele builds and sells custom computers that incorporate touch screens, high definition technology, blue tooth, Web cams and a device that works like Tivo to record television programs.

See page 30 for Panhandle Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data table for October 2007.

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Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce counties

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.3 percent in October from September's rate of 3 percent as shown in the labor force table for north central Idaho on page 31. In October 2006 the rate was 3.9 percent. Non-farm payroll jobs were up 100 from September 2007. A majority of the new jobs were created in government.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- The Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodge in Riggins was named Best of the Best in Customer Care at Best Western International's annual North American convention held recently in Montreal, Quebec. "The Best of the Best Awards recognize those Best Western hotels that truly demonstrate the highest levels of quality and service," said Charles Helm, chairman

of Best Western's board of directors. "The Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodge represents a strong commitment to caring for our guests." Located on U.S. Highway 95, the lodge features 55 rooms, an indoor pool, outdoor spa, meeting room and two-story great room with fireplace and windows overlooking the confluence of the Salmon and Little Salmon rivers.

- A new business, Rocky Canyon Pellet Co. just outside of Grangeville, follows one of those rare kinds of business models that both economists and environmentalists promote. It takes sawdust waste from making lumber and turns it into wood fuel pellets that release less carbon into the air than other fuels. Plus, because of location, as little gas as possible is used in transportation. The sawdust comes from Bennett Lumber, located just 200 yards away. The pellets are sold wholesale to stores in the region, not

thousands of miles away. D&B Supply, Primeland, Moscow Building Supply, Orofino Builders and M&C Lumber in New Meadows carry them. Owner Mel Roschelle of Potter Valley, Calif., has other ventures, which include agricultural and timberland in California and Idaho and grain, corn and wheat farming in Texas. He discovered north central Idaho on hunting trips starting about 15 years ago. Attempting to open a business like this in his home state would be "almost impossible" because of environmental regulations and attitudes about the wood products industry, Roschelle said. The business climate in Idaho is much friendlier, Roschelle said. U.S. Bank and the Clearwater Economic Development Association provided financing.

LATAH COUNTY

- The city of Moscow is looking into establishing an urban renewal district. Urban renewal districts allow an urban redevelopment authority to collect funds in an area through tax increment financing. The authority collects the difference between the initial valuation and the valuation after the property is developed, and the money is used to pay for infrastructure improvements.
- According to John Herkes local farmers just need a little economic motivation to grow oilseed crops in their fields. The 80-year-old Herkes, who is in the final stages of earning his doctorate in biological and agricultural engineering at the University of Idaho, said he is not asking farmers to stop growing wheat but rather to use oilseed crops — like canola or mustard — as rotation crops every third year in place of peas or lentils. He said research has shown using canola or mustard can increase the next wheat crop yield by 10 percent to 15 percent, and the rotation crop can be used to meet the farmer's fuel needs if it's used in the production of biodiesel. However, Herkes emphasized the continued importance of food crops and cautioned against turning too much valuable food-producing land over to fuel production. That would just lead to more imports of food rather than fuel. Jack Silzel, Washington state executive director for the Farm Service Agency and retired Whitman County farmer, said farmers had to set aside grazing land for horses in the early days of farming on the Palouse. Putting aside land for fuel production would be a similar situation. "Maybe we are going back to that, only now we are feeding tractors rather than horses," Silzel said. "People are beginning to think they are going to have to grow a portion of their fuel if they can make the economics work."
- The Federal Aviation Administration has given Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport officials the green light on their estimated \$42.5 million runway project. Airport Manager Robb Parish said the new 6,700-foot runway will provide a better instrument approach, which amounts to an easier approach and allows pilots to land aircraft in reduced visibility. The new run-

way also will bring the airport up to current aviation standards for larger planes and jets and open up airport land for business development.

NEZ PERCE COUNTY

- Potlatch Corp. had its strongest financial performance in the third quarter of 2007 since its conversion to a real estate investment trust 22 months ago. Potlatch made \$41 million on revenues of \$436 million, according to a news release. All manufacturing segments with operations in Lewiston made money. Potlatch is the largest private employer in north central Idaho and southeastern Washington. Pulp and paperboard contributed \$17.6 million and consumer products \$5.1 million in operating income to Potlatch's third-quarter earnings while wood products had \$2.4 million in operating income. Paperboard pricing is strong in the high-end folding carton market Potlatch serves. High demand and the weak U.S. dollar are prompting European and Asian customers to buy in larger volumes. And Potlatch is continuing to make even more improvements at the plant in Lewiston. "We're just in the process of completing a very extensive new chip screening system, which we think will improve the yield on the chips and the raw material costs, which are the largest source of our costs in the facility," said Mike Covey, Potlatch's chief executive officer. Potlatch's wood products segment is withstanding a slump in housing starts through its diversification in specialty products such as cedar siding and decking.
- Weyerhaeuser Co., one of the world's largest lumber and paper producers, expects that mothballing three of its North American plants will cost between \$47 million and \$63 million. Weyerhaeuser said last month it would indefinitely close two Canadian oriented strand board plants, plus a laminated strand lumber plant in Deerwood, Minn., before the end of 2007 because of weak customer demand amid the ongoing slump in the North American housing market. Oriented strand boards, or layers of wood chips glued together, are used for floors, roofs and walls in home construction.
- Lewis-Clark State College has announced it will build its new \$16 million, 53,000-square-foot nursing building on the large lawn north of the Talkington residence hall. The Legislature funded the building earlier this year to help address the state's nursing shortage. When the building is complete, it will double the school's nursing education capacity. Ground-breaking is scheduled for March, and construction should be completed by the fall 2009 semester.

See page 31 for the north central Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data table for October 2007.

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Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose a third of a point to 2.6 percent in October from September's 2.3 percent. Despite this increase, October's unemployment rate was two-tenths of a point below a year ago, and over 7,400 more people were working than in October 2006, a 2.6 percent gain. Total employment was down 2,300 from September as the labor force declined by 1,400 people, and the end of seasonal jobs put another 900 on the unemployment rolls.

Wages are working against both job seekers and employers, or more specifically the widening discrepancy between essentially stable wages and the ever rising costs of living. In a time of record low unemployment such as the last several years, the law of supply and demand would normally dictate rising wages as the number of available qualified workers declines. However, in the Boise metropolitan area this law has been slow to take effect. Employers want to hold the line on costs, and wages are a major one, but employees cannot live on those wages anymore. Compounding the problem is the lack of industry with high-paying jobs moving to the metro area and an influx instead of service businesses, which inherently pay less than the average. The industry that added more jobs to the economy than any other between October 2006 and October 2007 was retail trade at 2,500. Conversely, manufacturing, which typically offers higher pay checks, lost 900 jobs. Trade offs like this, while lowering the unemployment rate, aggravate the problem of low wages and leave many people underemployed. The metro area's labor market is still a job seeker's market, but the decreased supply of workers, fewer manufacturing jobs and low-paying service sector jobs make it a little tougher on everyone.

During October nonfarm jobs in the metro area declined by 600 from September but remained 7,300 higher than October 2006. The monthly decrease is seasonal, reflecting a slowing in construction with winter weather coming on. Recreational facilities decreased staff in the annual transition from the busy summer season to the winter months when business is a little slower. Further declines in manufacturing were not recorded in October but could occur in the coming months. The next

two months should bring significant gains in retail trade, transportation and health care along with other associated industries for the busy holiday shopping and shipping season and the onset of winter flu season.

Labor force and employment data for all 10 southwestern Idaho counties can be found on page 32.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE/NAMPA MSA

- Boise based Winco recently opened its fifth store in the Boise metro area in Eagle. The store is approximately 92,000 square feet and is the largest of the company's metro locations. Winco is an employee owned corporation and is the third largest privately owned company in Idaho following J.R. Simplot Co. and Boise Cascade Corp.
- The College of Western Idaho is hoping to take over Boise State University's Larry Selland College of Applied Technology by January 2009. The College of Western Idaho is currently on schedule to start classes in adult basic education in January 2008 and to begin offering courses for credit by fall 2008.
- Boise-based construction and engineering firm Washington Group International, formerly known as Morrison Knudsen, was recently sold to San Francisco-based URS Corp. for \$3.2 billion. The buyout was approved by 53 percent of Washington Group shareholders. It is unknown how the buyout may affect the company's 600 employees in Boise.
- As Idaho's largest private employer, Micron Technology continues to struggle financially, and more job cuts are likely on the way. According to company officials, Micron's SpecTek division in Nampa is considering cutting its work day back from 24 to 12 hours and may move production from Nampa to China.
- Ground has been broken on the new for-profit Riverside Hospital being built by a group of doctors in downtown Boise. At a cost of \$57 million, the 130,000-square-foot facility will have 54 rooms when completed in early 2009. It will employ 230, mostly in medical fields, and pay an average of over \$25 an hour.

- As metals prices continue to rise, mining companies are considering starting up abandoned mines. Most recently Standard Silver Corp. of Texas purchased the King Gold Mine near Grimes Creek about 50 miles north of Boise. Mining jobs are typically among the highest paying in any economy. The influx of new mining companies and the prospect of these mines coming online is an exciting development, especially since the region needs more high-paying jobs.
- Voters in the Caldwell School District have approved a \$30 million school bond to replace two run-down elementary schools, remodel the alternative school and make heating and air conditioning improvements in all schools.
- More homes are coming on the rental market in the Boise metro area. Vacancy rates jumped from 2.4 percent last spring to 6.7 percent during the third quarter. During the same period, apartment vacancy rates only increased from 2.5 to 3.6 percent because apartments are cheaper to rent than houses. For instance, the median rent for a two bedroom home during the third quarter was \$727 per month compared with \$771 for a three plus bedroom apartment or \$602 for a two bedroom apartment and \$493 for a one bedroom apartment. A three bedroom home carries a median rent of \$940.
- A new x-ray center has opened its doors in Caldwell. Imaging Center of Idaho has an 8,000-square-foot facility in the Sky Ranch Business Park, which is also the site of Thomas Jefferson Charter School, a new Idaho Athletic Club and the state Department of Labor's new Canyon County office. Imaging Center of Idaho will offer a wide variety of services from bone density imaging to MRIs.
- In more bad news for some Boise workers, Super-Valu announced the transfer of 180 information technology jobs to India. The company has not publicly disclosed how many of those 180 jobs are located in Boise.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- The city of Payette and Seneca Foods have agreed on a new wastewater discharge permit. The negotiation began in 2002, and the new permit will expire in 2012. Over the past five years Seneca accrued \$143,000 in discharge fees that the agreement waives if Seneca reinvests the money in its wastewater treatment facilities.
- Construction is under way on the road for the new Hannigan Motors Automall near Interstate 84 in Fruitland. The road is being partially funded by a community development block grant administered by the Idaho Department of Commerce. The new Gen-

eral Motors dealership is scheduled to be open in late 2008.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently granted Boise State University's Larry Selland College of Applied Technology five new welding machines for Payette High School. The machines were provided under a grant to expand the skilled labor pool in the rural area.

VALLEY COUNTY

- In another real estate offering recently completed by Tamarack Resort, 17 more properties were sold for \$16.5 million that will be used to further develop the resort. The properties, located at the entryway to Tamarack's Osprey Meadows Golf Course, sold for between \$495,000 and \$3.1 million apiece.
- Tamarack Resort also sold \$17.2 million in property to luxury developer Elan Collection LLC to build 60 new condos. The property is located on the north side of the Village Plaza near the Tamarack Express chair lift. Pending design approvals, construction should begin sometime in 2008.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- The city of Weiser has completed its water treatment facility financed from a bond passed in 2001. The project included construction of a water cleaning facility where chemicals are introduced to make the water taste better and to reduce any odors, a sand filtering facility that cleanses 30,000 gallons of water in only eight minutes and a new 500,000-gallon storage tank.
- Washington County commissioners accepted a \$365,500 bid for remodeling the county courthouse annex. The 40-year-old annex houses the Magistrate Court and the Washington County Extension Office. The project will include energy efficiency improvements, heightened security and better use of the 5,200-square-foot building.

See page 32 for the southwestern Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data tables for October 2007.

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Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls counties

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

October reflected the labor stability typical for the fall. Crops are in and weather is slowing outside work like landscaping and construction while retailers are assessing their needs for the holiday season before actually ramping up. The harvest and the approach of the holiday season boosted jobs in transportation and warehousing by 11.3 percent from September. Wholesale trade was up half a point and 7 percent from September 2006. With the continued swell of population and industrial diversification, seasonal trends will likely flatten out in south central Idaho although never disappear. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Twin Falls-Jerome micropolitan statistical area increased slightly from 1.9 percent to 2 percent. This is a full point below October 2006 and the result of many economic mini-booms including Jayco's continued development, the escalation of health care services in Twin Falls, the growth of small business in Twin Falls and Jerome and the start-up of numerous multimillion-dollar commercial construction projects in the area.

A tight labor pool continues to be an issue in the region, but it is not alone. South Central Idaho Table 1 following this article on page 18 references the other states in the nation and their unemployment rates from lowest to highest. Idaho has had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation for the last four months. Part of this can be attributed to the population shift as Americans age and leave their full-time jobs. South Central Idaho Table 2 breaks down south central Idaho's population by age and shows the changes that can be expected in the 10-year period from 2006 to 2016. People 55 and older, the vanguard of the retiring baby boomers, increase 63 percent

while the number of individuals 54 and under actually declines 8.3 percent. Kathleen Casey-Kirschling, generally recognized as the nation's first baby boomer, was born in Philadelphia on Jan. 1, 1946, at 12:00:01 a.m. Casey-Kirschling applied for Social Security benefits on Oct. 15 this year, signaling the start of an expected avalanche of applications from the post-World War II generation. The former teacher from New Jersey applied for benefits over the Internet at an event attended by Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue.

NATIONAL UPDATES

October was National Disability Employment Month and a time when information was distributed regarding this untapped pool of labor including the following list.

- One out of eight working-age Idahoans have some type of disability but only 40 percent are employed.
- Most workers with disabilities require no special accommodation.
- Studies show that two-thirds of the workers requiring special accommodations require an investment of less than \$500 by the employer.
- There are approximately 70,000 unemployed working-age Idahoans with disabilities and many can work but face challenges in finding jobs.
- The Idaho Department of Labor has secured a \$1.1 million grant to provide services to individuals with disabilities. Disability Program Navigators are stationed at local offices across the state including the Magic Valley local office. Agencies to contact regarding employment of individuals with disabilities include the Idaho Industrial Commission, the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Idaho Department of Labor.

STATE UPDATES

- Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter wants to pay farmers in the Thousand Springs area to fallow their ground but for shorter periods than those required under the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program currently used by many land owners across the state. The initiative is still being designed but could involve a three-year pilot program to see if this eases the water shortage pressuring eastern and central Idaho that has led to the water calls by senior water rights users. This year, groundwater users negotiated a deal to avoid curtailment of their water rights,

South Central Idaho Table 2: Changes in Age Ranges in South Central Idaho from 2006 to 2016

Age Range	% Change from 2006 to 2016
24 and Under	-8.80%
25-44	7.40%
45-54	-6.90%
55-64	33.30%
65 and Over	29.70%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialist Inc., 9/2007

and attempts have been made to recharge the aquifer after irrigation had been completed.

BLAINE COUNTY

- A 40-year extension of Sun Valley Co.'s operating permit for Bald Mountain has been approved. The U.S. Forest Service also approved additions to the ski area that include a gondola and more snowmaking equipment. Forest Service officials say the basic permit that takes effect this month is not open for appeal, but there is a 45-day appeal process for the additions to the mountain. Part of the ski area is on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. That agency has not yet responded to Sun Valley Co.'s request for the ski area additions. Jack Sibbach, director of sales for the company, says the gondola will also run in the summer and be used to take people up the mountain for weddings, conventions and to a restaurant at Roundhouse day lodge.
- The lack of early snow had its effect on the Thanksgiving season with only a portion of the Sun Valley resort opening on Nov. 24. Over 1,280 skiers and snowboarders enjoyed the combination of sun and manmade snow.
- Hailey voters approved passage of a bill Nov. 6 that would allow the industrial use of hemp, the medical use of marijuana and lowering the law enforcement priority for marijuana possession. However, the city council is not moving on any of these initiatives until further word comes from the Idaho Attorney General. Concerns are rampant among local government and the citizens. This local election issue generated national media interest.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Cosmic Jolt, a trendy coffee shop in Buhl that has been operating for over 10 years was recently purchased by a former Colorado resident. Becky Hagerott bought the business from Trudy Jackson and is extending the services to include catering, a breakfast menu, a punch card program, happy hour with half-price drinks and ceramic coffee mugs personalized with customers' names. Cosmic Jolt's name and fun atmosphere will continue to enhance Buhl's downtown core.
- A wind generation farm may soon be in the making when Sierra Pacific Resources and Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. join forces. The \$400 million project would be based on 9,000 acres of federal, state and private ground north of Jackpot, Nev., and mostly in Idaho. The facility would use state-of-the-art, large-scale wind turbines to generate 200 megawatts of electricity sufficient to serve approximately 65,000 households. The project is contingent on an environmental impact statement that should be completed in early 2008. The electricity would be used in western and southern Nevada. The site is considered favorable due to the reliable wind resource, the gentle terrain for construction access and the proximity of a transmission line. Germany has the

largest investment in wind power, generating 20,622 megawatts at the end of 2006. The United States and Spain are neck and neck at 11,699 and 11,615 megawatts, respectively. Other countries dabbling in this energy source are Spain, Denmark, India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and Japan. The states with the highest installation of wind turbines are Texas, California, Iowa and Minnesota, but construction is occurring in every state, increasing wind power in the nation's future energy mix.



DANISH WIND TURBINES NEAR COPENHAGEN. The large and slow turning turbines of this offshore wind farm near Copenhagen take advantage of the area's moderate yet constant breezes. While the wind at this location is not strong it is very consistent, with the turbines generating substantial power over 97 percent of the time.

- Construction of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple in Twin Falls was completed two months late in November at an additional cost of \$750,000. The total cost for the temple was just under \$3 million. In addition, there is a new 1,000-home subdivision, sewage pipes were expanded and new lines were added and an important north-south artery was widened from two lanes to four lanes. Landscaping is being completed as weather permits. This was a joint venture between the city, developers, the church and EHM Engineers.
- Massage by Stacie is a new business that opened in Twin Falls offering deep tissue massage, Swedish massage, Raindrop Technique and Healing Stone Massage. Stacie Myers attended the Twin Falls Institute of Holistic Studies and has been providing massage services in Burley for the last four years.
- A new company, Cinematrixx, has opened in downtown Twin Falls, specializing in home theatre installation, satellite television and Internet installation as well as home and business security systems.

MINI-CASSIA AREA

- Space is becoming increasingly tight around the Boise Cascade plant, known locally as the "box plant," with another company announcing its intention to build a facility southwest of Burley. Packaging Specialties Inc., based in Arkansas, will employ approximately 25 employees at around \$13 an hour. The company hopes to build a 20,000-square-foot building and begin operations next spring. It expects to expand beyond its three initial presses by 2009. Burley's location near the company's growing customer base in California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Ore-

gon, Canada and Mexico was a selling point but not the only consideration. The company is also excited about the rural atmosphere, strong work ethic and trainable labor force. The choice was narrowed down to two other states when Packaging Specialties decided on Burley. The company held a job fair at the Idaho Department of Labor Mini-Cassia office in early December.

- NAPA Auto Parts expanded its original facility in Burley to include a larger sales area and parking lot. Brian and Debra Barlow have owned the business since 2001 and decided to enlarge the footprint to take over the former Snake River Computer Store, adding 2,800 square feet.
- American Graffiti Embroidery and Screen Printing recently held a ribbon cutting in celebration of its grand opening in Heyburn. The company screen prints banners, decals, window stickers, magnetic signs and promotional items.
- The heated debate over confined animal feeding operations continues in Cassia County. One of the new players, High Desert Milk, is banking on the area's high milk production to guarantee 64 million pounds of milk powder annually. Construction should be completed by next April, but the co-op is concerned about growth, which will require more milk production. General Manager Karl Nelson has stressed High Desert's commitment to good stewardship, stating that the plant does not want more

cows than would be good for the county. But he says everyone needs to work together to figure out where the equilibrium is. Cassia County has been advised it cannot call another moratorium on large animal operations because state law prohibits more than one emergency ordinance per year. However, the county is looking closely at ordinances governing waste management and permanently overhauling existing rules and exemptions.

- Pacific Ethanol held a job fair in October at the Mini-Cassia Department of Labor office and was inundated by eager job applicants. Over 300 applications were completed for a wide range of jobs including production operators, electricians, maintenance mechanics, lab techs and commodity operators, who need a variety of skills from running forklifts to handling computer operations. Wages range between \$10 and \$13 an hour. Excavation and construction of the rail line and plant is under way near the Boise Cascade factory. Operations are expected to start the first half of next year.

See page 33 for the south central Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data table for October 2007.

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South Central Idaho Table 1: State Unemployment Rates, Current and Historical, Seasonally Adjusted *(continued on page 19)*

Rank	State	Sep 2007	Historical High		Historical Low	
		Rate	Date	Rate	Date	Rate
1	Idaho	2.3	Feb 1983	9.4	Sep 2007	2.3
2	Hawaii	2.6	Mar 1976	10.2	Dec 2006	2
3	Utah	2.7	Mar 1983	9.7	Feb 2007	2.3
4	Montana	2.9	May 1983	8.7	Mar 2007	2
5	Virginia	2.9	Jan 1983	7.8	Jan 2001	2.2
6	Delaware	3	Jan 1977	8.2	Oct 1988	2.9
7	Nebraska	3.1	Feb 1983	6.8	Feb 1998	2.2
8	South Dakota	3.1	Oct 1982	5.9	Mar 2000	2.4
9	Wyoming	3.1	May 1983	10.1	Feb 1979	1.9
10	Arizona	3.3	Feb 1983	11.5	Sep 2007	3.3
11	New Mexico	3.4	Apr 1983	9.9	Jun 2007	3.2
12	North Dakota	3.4	Mar 1983	6.9	Jan 1998	2.5
13	New Hampshire	3.5	Jun 1992	7.7	Apr 1987	1.9
14	Alabama	3.7	Dec 1982	14.4	Apr 2007	3.3
15	Colorado	3.9	Nov 1982	9.1	Jan 2001	2.5
16	Iowa	3.9	May 1983	8.5	Jan 2000	2.6
17	Maryland	3.9	Aug 1982	8.3	Mar 2000	3.3

(continued on page 19)

South Central Idaho Table 1 (continued from page 18): State Unemployment Rates, Current and Historical, Seasonally Adjusted

Rank	State	Sep 2007	Historical High		Historical Low	
		Rate	Date	Rate	Date	Rate
18	Florida	4	Mar 1976	9.7	Oct 2006	3.2
19	Vermont	4.2	Jun 1976	9	Mar 2000	2.2
20	New Jersey	4.3	Feb 1977	10.6	Jun 2000	3.5
21	Oklahoma	4.3	Aug 1986	9.4	Jan. 2001	2.7
22	Texas	4.3	Oct 1986	9.3	June 2007	4.1
23	Louisiana	4.4	Sep 1986	12.9	July 2006	3.3
24	Massachusetts	4.4	Jan 1976	10.9	Dec 2000	2.7
25	Connecticut	4.5	Jan 1976	10	Nov 2000	2.1
26	Georgia	4.5	Jan 1983	8.3	Dec 2000	3.4
27	Indiana	4.5	Nov 1982	12.8	Apr 1999	2.6
28	Kansas	4.5	Sep 1982	7.4	Oct 1978	2.9
29	Pennsylvania	4.5	Mar 1983	12.9	Mar 2007	3.8
30	New York	4.6	Jul 1976	10.5	Mar 2007	4
31	Tennessee	4.7	Dec 1982	12.4	Mar 2000	3.8
32	Maine	4.8	Mar 1977	9	Jan 2001	3
33	Washington	4.8	Nov 1982	12.2	Apr 2007	4.4
34	West Virginia	4.8	Mar 1983	18.2	Jan 2007	4
35	Minnesota	4.9	Nov 1982	9	Apr 1999	2.5
36	North Carolina	4.9	Feb 1983	10.2	Apr 1999	3.1
37	Rhode Island	4.9	Nov 1982	9.7	Jul 1988	2.9
38	Illinois	5.1	Feb 1983	12.9	Nov 2006	4
39	Nevada	5.1	Dec 1982	10.7	May 2000	4.1
40	Wisconsin	5.2	Jan 1983	11.8	Apr 1999	2.9
41	Missouri	5.3	Apr 1983	10.5	Jan 2000	2.6
42	Oregon	5.3	Nov 1982	12.1	Apr 1995	4.7
43	California	5.6	Feb 1983	11	Nov 2006	4.7
44	Arkansas	5.7	Mar 1983	10.2	Sep 2000	4.1
45	District of Columbia	5.7	Mar 1983	11.4	Dec 1988	4.8
46	South Carolina	5.7	Jan 1983	11.4	Mar 1998	3.1
47	Ohio	5.9	Jan 1983	13.8	Mar 2001	3.9
48	Kentucky	6.1	Dec 1982	12.1	Mar 2000	4
49	Alaska	6.3	Jul 1986	11.5	Apr 2007	5.8
50	Mississippi	6.4	May 1983	13.7	Jan 2001	4.9
51	Michigan	7.5	Nov 1982	16.9	Mar 2000	3.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor



Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The October unemployment rate in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area was 2.3 percent, one-tenth of a point higher than September, but much lower than last October's 3.4 percent. The lower unemployment rate translates into 510 fewer people unemployed in the area than a year ago. There were also 1,010 more people working this October than last.

Non-farm jobs increased slightly from September, but total jobs for October matched the total in October 2006. The only significant month to month change in the goods producing sector was in a subsector of manufacturing, where a 45.8 percent increase, 100 jobs, resulted from small payroll increases by several existing business and hires by the area's newest employer, steel fabricator Petersen Inc.

In the service sector, the most significant changes came in government — a drop of 520 in administration and an increase of 640 in public schools. While some of the increase in education reflects stronger than expected enrollment growth, much of the overall change involved recording government administration jobs as education jobs.

MIGRATION PATTERNS IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

With the economy, especially at the national level, seemingly entering a period of change, recognizing and interpreting economic indicators becomes even more important. One is the change in the migration patterns of people to and from an area. As a lagging economic indicator, migration patterns in part reflect workers entering or leaving an area in relationship to work opportunities, which may also be reflected in a changing unemployment rate. For many years there have been more people leaving eastern Idaho than moving in. As recently as 2002, eastern Idaho experienced a negative migration of more than 1,000 people. Although there has been population growth in most eastern Idaho counties it has been primarily because the natural difference between births and deaths has been more than enough to offset the negative migration. As the economy has improved, net migration has gradually become positive. It seems to be a clear indicator work-

ers will return to the area if good-paying jobs are available. Although it is unclear how many of the people migrating to eastern Idaho are former residents, it is clear that the improved economy is attracting more people to the area. Southeastern Idaho Table 1 shows the change in the net migration of people for eastern Idaho from 2002 to 2006 and the corresponding change in the rate of unemployment.

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Net Migration Patterns for Southeastern Idaho

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Net change	-1057	-402	-169	14	35
Unemployment rate	4.6	4.4	4	3.5	3.2

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Many regions of the United States and several counties in Idaho are experiencing a greater number of unemployment claims than at this same time last year. As Southwest Idaho Table 2 shows the number weekly unemployment claims filed in southeastern Idaho during October 2007 was 74 fewer than in 2006. The increase in total claims filed in Idaho is attributed to large layoffs at Micron Technology in Boise and the slowing of the housing market in the southwestern part of the state. In southeastern Idaho good weather has allowed commercial construction projects to continue. And when combined with job growth by existing manufacturing and retail businesses, a much larger percentage of

Southeastern Idaho Table 2: Number of Unemployment Claims, October 2006 Compared to October 2007

County	2007	2006	Change
Bannock	1663	1660	3
Bear Lake	62	55	7
Bingham	475	496	-21
Caribou	65	81	-16
Franklin	28	64	-36
Oneida	24	22	2
Power	98	111	-13
SE Idaho	2415	2489	-74
Idaho	32,871	23,133	9,788

the work force in the region is able to find satisfactory employment. The net result is fewer claims for unemployment insurance benefits.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- The Hampton Inn & Suites began welcoming guests this month in Pocatello. With the opening of the Hampton Inn, Pocatello now has 15 hotels.
- Hoku Scientific announced the signing of another customer for its polysilicon solar wafer chips. An eight-year contract with Solarfun Sign, a China-based manufacturer, requires Hoku to begin delivery of wafers in the second half of 2009. Hoku will receive initial payment of \$10 million in December.
- Tot Spot, a new child care center for newborns to 18-month-olds, opened in Chubbuck. The new business is owned by Katie Johnston and will maintain a ratio of one worker per four children.
- Economic growth and rising property values in Pocatello have pushed the city's tax levy down 3.6 percent. After declining the past couple of years, the levy is about the same as five years ago. The decrease means a savings of about \$40 in taxes on a \$100,000 home.
- Petersen Inc. officials announced they will be opening a new custom steel fabricating facility in building 36 at the Gateway West Business and Industrial Center. The company will use 12 cranes ranging from 5 to 50 tons and have access to two rail spurs. Initial employment will be about 40, but the company is expecting to have nearly 250 employees in the near future. More information about the company is on its Web site at www.Peterseninc.com.
- New Pocatello City Manager David Allen has been promoting opportunities for industrial development at the airport and encouraging greater use of the flight service offered. Most airlines require at least a 60 percent average capacity load, and flights from Pocatello have been filling to about 55 percent.
- Legislation requiring Amtrak to restore passenger service to Pocatello has passed the U.S. Senate. The bill is now being debated in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Business partners Bill Isley, Don Zebe and Joe Fraser announced that they are planning to build a prototype Ruby Tuesday restaurant next to the recently opened Marriott TownPlace Suites. Construc-

tion will begin in December and opening is expected before next Memorial Day weekend.

- The Shoe Carnival opened in the store next to T.J. Maxx and Wal-Mart, which was vacated by the Dollar Store. The Shoe Carnival is a national retail shoe franchise offering a variety of family footwear.
- Representatives of Idaho State University and Portneuf Medical Center believe a formal working relationship would benefit both and have signed an agreement to investigate the feasibility of creating a "formal, highly integrated collaborative relationship." Additionally, such an agreement could offer more opportunities for grants and externally funded clinical trials.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- The Bear Lake Planning and Zoning Commission has been evaluating several different subdivision plans. The proposed Black Bear Mountain Resort is progressing in stages. County planners, resort developers, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management officials and local residents are working together to ensure the development proceeds with as little disruption as possible to the quality of life enjoyed by those living in the area. Black Bear is currently advertising for employees and has a work force of 20 in Bear Lake County.
- Montpelier's Gem team reviewed goals established during the initial evaluation in September and is formulating strategies to achieve them. The overall objective is to attract jobs to the area that pay a living wage.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Blackfoot businessmen Les Sorensen, Bryce Lloyd and Shane Gifford opened a UPS store just in time for the busy holiday shipping season. The store is a member of the Pack and Ship Program, which means all items packed and shipped by store employees at the store are guaranteed 100 percent safe. The store is located in downtown Blackfoot, which has made more than \$1 million in renovations in the last five years.
- Nexus Financial Group opened a new office in Blackfoot. Nexus also has other offices in Victor, Idaho Falls and Rexburg. The company offers several financing packages, which are tailored to each customer.
- Ridgeline Energy has withdrawn its application for a special use permit to build up to 150 wind turbines. The company indicated another application would be made once all of the property owners

within 300 feet of the land expected to be leased by Ridgeline were notified of Ridgeline's plans. During the initial permitting process, 17 of the approximately 89 property owners in the area were not properly notified. Ridgeline currently has 13 wind turbines operating in Bingham County.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Dr. Jerry Walker has joined Mountain View Dental Clinic. Another full-time dentist will make it easier to schedule appointments and handle emergency patient needs in the community.
- The upgrade to the city of Soda Springs' wastewater treatment plant is about nine months behind schedule but still on budget. A large factor in the delay has been the six-month review of the low interest loan application to the state Department of Environmental Quality, which took nearly a year to be granted. The project is now expected to be completed in May of 2008.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Chiropractor Dallas Ward held a ribbon cutting for his new spinal rehabilitation center in Preston. The new center expands current services.
- Rocky Mountain Power filed an objection to the proposal by Twin Lakes Canal Co. to build a dam on the Bear River. Rocky Mountain argues that the dam would adversely affect its ability to meet current obligations and contracts. The licensing process will continue with hearings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and it is expected to be several more months before a final decision is made.
- A Duckwell-Alco Store will open in Preston next February. The 20,000-square-foot store will employ 25 and will be the fourth ALCO store in Idaho. ALCO is a regional retailer offering fashionable merchandise at reasonable prices. The distribution center for stores in this area is in Abilene, Kan.
- The City of Preston was awarded a \$200,000 block grant by the Idaho Department of Commerce to extend water lines and pave a road to a new tenant at the industrial park.
- Cache Valley Transit Manager Todd Beutler reported more than 13,000 riders from October 2006 to September 2007. What started as an experiment in reducing auto emissions in the valley has turned into a successful way for many workers commuting to and from Logan, Utah, to save more than \$300 per month they would otherwise be spending on fuel.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- The Oneida County Airport Advisory Committee appointed by the county commissioners has been given the charge of developing one- and five-year plans for the airport. This is the first time a committee of this type has been formed to evaluate the airport's function, and it will be dealing with a wide variety of issues.
- Bear River Resource Conservation and Development council may apply for a grant to put a weather station in western Oneida County. The county has been without a National Weather Service station for some time and it has been sorely missed by farmers and ranchers applying for weather-related disaster funds, local residents planning recreational activities and U.S. Fish and Game officers trying to conduct sage grouse studies.
- The nationwide housing slump has affected Malad City. Hess Pumice announced the company will be closing production lines at its cultured stone operation, which will idle 34 employees. The layoffs will be permanent unless the housing market and demand for the cultured stone facades increase.
- The Malad Senior Citizen Center received a \$20,000 grant from the Nell Redfield Foundation to help pay for the installation of a new heating system.

POWER COUNTY

- Construction activity in American Falls is visual evidence of new business activity in the community. A new Duckwall-Alco store is scheduled to open next March if construction can continue through the winter. A NAPA Auto Parts store and Subway restaurant will also be opening in the near future. The Subway has already been conducting interviews and reports a good response to help wanted ads.
- Another commercial construction project in the area, the Bureau of Land Management fire station, should be completed by the end of December. The fire station itself will be 4,800 square feet. The adjoining engine shed will be 2,800 square feet. The BLM center will not be staffed until the start of fire season next spring.

See page 34 for the southeastern Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data table for October 2007.

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Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- A large development area in northeast Idaho Falls has attracted many businesses. The Bentley Business Park is between the new Buzz Shop and the new Ron Sayer Nissan. The Buzz Shop is owned by Buzz Nielsen, who has been in the electronics industry for over 25 years. He has run his operation in Pocatello, also the Buzz Shop, for over 10 years. The shop specializes in custom car, home and marine audio, mobile video units, home theater, HDTV and security systems. Ron Sayer Nissan just finished its new, large sales and service facility. In time, its BMW sales and service will move to the previous Northgate Mile location and its Jeep and Chrysler sales and service will move to the previous BMW facility closer to downtown. There is still land available in the business park.
- Bowen Industrial Park, a 30-acre development that adjoins the Bentley Business Park, is the site of the new, large First Call Jewel facility, which moved from Northgate Mile. The new facility specializes in heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing sales, service and installation, but there is no longer walk-in sales for small parts and pieces. Just down the road is the new East Idaho Public Health District, formerly Health District 7, which moved from downtown. The new \$5 million facility increased the service area by another 10,000 square feet. It includes family and community health services, which provide immunizations and reproductive services, nutrition services and health preparedness services, which deal with such ailments as asthma, cancer, diabetes, oral health, tobacco-related problems and tuberculosis. Environmental health, which oversees day care and food services, has a separate entrance. The building also has a large conference room. L&A Welding also rents space in the industrial park. Several other buildings are already built with some lease options. Additional land is still available for development. City services are available and the roads are completed.

- Bear Buddies recently opened in Idaho Falls, providing customers the opportunity to create custom teddy bears. With 20 options to choose from, customers stuff the bears and accessorize them in any combination they want. Owner Jeni Freeman, a former accountant, and her bears can be found next to Sarah's Candy Cottage in front of WinCo.
- Naturally Yours Gifts and More in Idaho Falls, owned by Gina Yagues, specializes in gift baskets, stuffed balloons, massage, hypnosis, Dead Sea products and essential oils. Hypnosis is available by appointment for stress reduction, smoking cessation and weight loss. Three credits away from getting her degree in naturopathic medicine, Yagues is trying something new after working 10 years at a local day care.
- DaVita Inc., an independent dialysis service company, is opening a new kidney care services center. The 6,000-square-foot facility in the Taylor Crossing Professional Park will serve individuals diagnosed with chronic kidney failure and disease. Dialysis patients will have access to flat-screen TVs, temperature-controlled chairs and purified water. The center also plans to be a leading provider of kidney information to high-risk populations.

FREMONT COUNTY

- Several years of work toward creating a health care center for low income residents in the Upper Snake River Valley is nearly complete. Robert Hodgen and almost three dozen volunteers prepared a building in St. Anthony for renovation, and the center should open in late January. The organizers landed a \$1.8 million federal grant earlier this year to finance center operations for three years. Fremont County is one of the 200 poorest counties in the country. The center will be known as the Upper Valley Community Health Services and will replace the Upper Valley Free Clinic, which operated at the Eastern Idaho Public Health District office in Rexburg and relied on volunteers. Recently that clinic was operating only one day a week. The new center, open five days a week, will serve everyone including the large popula-

tion of uninsured and will charge using a sliding scale depending on income and family size. The center eventually will have three medical providers, dental and mental health services.

- A new RV park is planned to go in near the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. The project is still under study but has been received favorably by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The sand dunes area has needed a facility to handle the large number of out-of-area visitors, especially in the summer. The 134-lot project will be named the Golden Sands RV Resort. The initial plan is to sell the lots, which average

about 4,500 square feet each, to individual owners who can then rent them to others like a timeshare. The park will be run by a homeowners association, which would oversee rules and maintenance.

See page 35 for the east central Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data table for October 2007.

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WORKING DAY GETS LONGER AS COMMUTE TIMES INCREASE

Idaho's average work day is getting longer as the population expands two to three times faster than the nation and Idahoans remain unwavering in their love affair with their cars and trucks.

They may still be working just eight hours, but they are spending more time getting to and from the job, and they are getting up earlier to make it in on time. The extra minutes are turning into extra hours as sprawl lengthens commutes and congested roads slow them down.

The Society for Human Resource Management says lengthening commutes compounded by their increased likelihood of negotiating construction, waiting out accidents or dealing with other delays erode workers' time for leisure or just sleep. Longer commutes can reduce productivity while more vehicle emissions worsen air quality and increase health risks to workers.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the average commuting time for the state's 675,000 workers in mid-2006 was just a few seconds over 20 minutes one way – 40 minutes going and coming. The round trip was almost two minutes longer in the Coeur d'Alene metropolitan area and three minutes more in the sprawling Boise metro area.

While workers in 40 other states had longer commutes – over 30 minutes each way in New York and Maryland – the commute for Idaho's work force has been getting longer and longer – especially in the bigger cities like Boise where traffic congestion is becoming a serious byproduct of population growth.

Compared to six other U.S. metro areas ranging within 25,000 either side of Boise's mid-2006 population of 567,000, the average commute in and around Boise was longer than the commutes in Wichita, Kan.; Madison, Wis.; Youngstown, Ohio, and Scranton, Pa. Only the two Florida areas – Fort Myers and Lakeland – had commutes over 21½ minutes one way.

FYI Table 1: Average One-Way Metro Commute Times, 2006

Metro Areas	Time	Population
Madison, Wis.	20.0	543,022
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	20.8	550,841
Lakeland, Fla.	25.1	561,606
Boise City-Nampa, Idaho	21.5	567,640
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla.	26.0	571,344
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio & Pa.	20.1	586,939
Wichita, Kan.	18.5	592,126

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 1990, the average commute statewide, including Idaho's biggest urban area around Boise, was under 17 and a half minutes. By 2000 it had hit 20 and has hovered there statewide while continuing to rise in the Boise area.

That may not seem much of an increase – less than three minutes one way or six minutes back and forth. But over the course of 238 days on the job, it means workers

are spending over 22 more hours a year getting to work and going back home than they did 16 years earlier. Add another 11 hours for workers in the state's largest urban area.

Nationally, the average commute increased 20½ hours a year. Twenty-eight other states saw their average commutes increase less than Idaho, reflecting Idaho's comparatively rapid population growth and strong economic expansion.

And that lengthening commute has workers getting up earlier. In 1990, 34 percent of Idaho workers left home between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. while only 23 percent left before 6 a.m.

Now, less than 29 percent head for their jobs between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. while 30 percent leave the house before 6.

But the averages don't tell the whole story.

In 1990, over 52 percent of the workers throughout the state took less than 15 minutes to get to work, and most of them took less than 10. That includes the nearly 5 percent of the labor force that worked at home. Almost 60 percent of rural workers lived less than 15 minutes from work – that includes farmers and ranchers – while only 48 percent of workers lived that close in the metro areas of Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Pocatello, Idaho Falls and Twin Falls.

At the same time, just over 30 percent spent more than 20 minutes getting to work with 8 percent spending over 40 minutes commuting one way.

In 2006, however, only 44 percent of workers were within 15 minutes of their jobs while 40 percent commuted more than 20 minutes with over 11 percent traveling at least 40 minutes. In the urban areas, only 40 percent still lived less than 15 minutes from work while over 53 percent of rural worker remained that close.

Not surprisingly considering the strong streak of independence running through most Idahoans, joining forces with others in carpools or turning to alternative transportation where available has not occurred even as fuel prices have skyrocketed from an average of 88 cents a

FYI Table 2: When Idahoans Go To Work

Time of Day	1990	2006
Midnight to 4:59 a.m.	2.28%	4.13%
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	1.88%	3.04%
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	3.30%	4.55%
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	6.18%	7.54%
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	9.51%	10.48%
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	14.33%	13.34%
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	19.53%	15.45%
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	10.85%	9.30%
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	5.04%	5.17%
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	5.05%	5.52%
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	2.18%	2.74%
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	1.19%	1.45%
Noon to 3:59 p.m.	6.94%	5.97%
4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	7.04%	6.29%
Worked at home	4.70%	5.02%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

gallon for regular gasoline to \$2.50 a gallon during the summer of 2006. They have continued to rise since.

In fact, carpooling has gone in the other direction, but not as much as in most other states.

The Census Bureau estimates just under 11 percent of workers got to their jobs on public transportation or alternatives like motorcycles, bicycles or walking in 2006 while 11.6 percent carpoolled. The rest – almost four of every five workers – drove alone in their cars, pickups or SUVs.

Sixteen years earlier, over 12 percent of workers carpoolled, and another 13 percent used alternatives. Fewer than three of every four workers drove alone.

But in that time Idaho moved from the bottom third of the states in percent of workers carpooling – 38th – to the top third – 16th.

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FYI Table 3: Percent of Idaho Workers Within Specific One-Way Commute Times

Travel Time	Metropolitan Areas		Rural Areas		Statewide	
	1990	2006	1990	2006	1990	2006
Under 10 Minutes	25.45%	21.29%	42.17%	36.08%	31.81%	25.82%
10 to 15 Minutes	22.20%	18.70%	17.32%	17.38%	20.34%	18.31%
15 to 20 Minutes	19.24%	17.59%	13.34%	12.54%	17.00%	16.03%
20 to 40 Minutes	25.30%	31.80%	17.90%	20.71%	22.49%	28.40%
over 40 Minutes	7.81%	10.62%	9.27%	13.29%	8.36%	11.44%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

State of Idaho Data — October 2007

October 2007 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to October 2006 data *(continued on page 27)*

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2007				Oct 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	766,479	19,338	2.5	747,141	753,873	24,742	3.3	729,131
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	202,056	4,894	2.4	197,162	196,965	4,895	2.5	192,071
ADAMS	1,972	109	5.5	1,863	2,099	140	6.7	1,959
BANNOCK (8)	41,806	985	2.4	40,821	41,656	1,407	3.4	40,249
BEAR LAKE	3,160	70	2.2	3,090	3,160	92	2.9	3,067
BENEWAH	4,353	228	5.2	4,124	4,367	342	7.8	4,025
BINGHAM	21,615	314	1.5	21,300	21,107	667	3.2	20,440
BLAINE (5)	14,411	297	2.1	14,114	15,081	361	2.4	14,721
BOISE (1)	3,921	93	2.4	3,828	4,335	124	2.9	4,211
BONNER	20,776	644	3.1	20,132	20,637	864	4.2	19,773
BONNEVILLE (6)	49,826	837	1.7	48,989	47,443	1,209	2.5	46,234
BOUNDARY	4,143	250	6.0	3,893	4,190	310	7.4	3,881
BUTTE	1,228	27	2.2	1,201	1,232	45	3.7	1,187
CAMAS (5)	640	23	3.5	617	693	28	4.0	666
CANYON (1)	84,656	2,498	3.0	82,158	82,962	2,973	3.6	79,989
CARIBOU	3,521	83	2.3	3,438	3,458	114	3.3	3,344
CASSIA (2)	10,501	249	2.4	10,252	10,305	319	3.1	9,987
CLARK	581	13	2.2	568	490	16	3.2	474
CLEARWATER	3,233	218	6.7	3,015	3,224	276	8.6	2,948
CUSTER	2,378	87	3.7	2,291	2,608	94	3.6	2,513
ELMORE	11,230	427	3.8	10,803	10,542	434	4.1	10,108
FRANKLIN	6,795	87	1.3	6,708	6,244	167	2.7	6,077
FREMONT (9)	7,000	121	1.7	6,880	5,745	182	3.2	5,563
GEM (1)	7,696	197	2.6	7,498	7,436	278	3.7	7,158
GOODING	8,669	156	1.8	8,513	8,870	230	2.6	8,640
IDAHO	6,932	326	4.7	6,606	7,072	508	7.2	6,563
JEFFERSON (6)	10,890	158	1.4	10,733	10,268	301	2.9	9,967
JEROME (10)	10,321	202	2.0	10,118	10,481	324	3.1	10,158
KOOTENAI (3)	70,160	2,083	3.0	68,077	69,494	2,472	3.6	67,022
LATAH	17,043	386	2.3	16,657	20,151	657	3.3	19,494
LEMHI	3,905	173	4.4	3,732	4,154	267	6.4	3,887
LEWIS (4)	1,705	35	2.1	1,670	1,706	51	3.0	1,655
LINCOLN	2,504	76	3.1	2,427	2,687	94	3.5	2,593
MADISON (9)	17,389	228	1.3	17,161	14,675	406	2.8	14,268
MINIDOKA (2)	9,762	231	2.4	9,531	9,663	388	4.0	9,275
NEZ PERCE (7)	18,997	553	2.9	18,444	18,830	714	3.8	18,116
ONEIDA	2,394	34	1.4	2,360	2,288	59	2.6	2,229
OWYHEE (1)	5,084	85	1.7	4,998	4,935	116	2.4	4,819
PAYETTE	10,964	331	3.0	10,634	10,200	569	5.6	9,631
POWER (8)	3,837	47	1.2	3,790	3,482	135	3.9	3,346
SHOSHONE	5,546	261	4.7	5,285	5,602	397	7.1	5,205
TETON	4,036	93	2.3	3,943	4,251	81	1.9	4,170
TWIN FALLS (10)	38,577	785	2.0	37,792	39,040	1,153	3.0	37,886
VALLEY	4,976	204	4.1	4,771	4,955	201	4.1	4,754
WASHINGTON	5,175	141	2.7	5,034	4,985	280	5.6	4,705
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,595	429	4.1	10,166	10,288	429	4.2	9,860

* In thousands


State of Idaho Data

October 2007 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to October 2006 data *(continued from page 26)*

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2007				Oct 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
LABOR MARKET AREAS								
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	303,412	7,768	2.6	295,644	296,634	8,386	2.8	288,248
BURLEY MicSA (2)	20,263	480	2.4	19,784	19,968	706	3.5	19,261
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	70,160	2,083	3.0	68,077	69,494	2,472	3.6	67,022
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	8,637	361	4.2	8,276	8,778	560	6.4	8,218
HAILEY SLMA (5)	15,051	320	2.1	14,732	15,775	388	2.5	15,387
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	60,717	995	1.6	59,722	57,712	1,511	2.6	56,201
LEWISTON MSA (7)	29,593	982	3.3	28,611	29,119	1,143	3.9	27,976
POCATELLO MSA (8)	45,643	1,032	2.3	44,611	45,137	1,543	3.4	43,595
REXBURG MicSA (9)	24,390	349	1.4	24,041	20,420	589	2.9	19,831
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	48,898	987	2.0	47,911	49,521	1,477	3.0	48,044
CITIES								
BOISE	117,087	2,434	2.1	114,652	125,244	3,232	2.6	122,013
CALDWELL	17,241	481	2.8	16,760	15,635	599	3.8	15,035
COEUR D' ALENE	22,615	555	2.5	22,060	22,262	775	3.5	21,487
IDAHO FALLS	27,976	453	1.6	27,522	28,652	781	2.7	27,871
LEWISTON	15,831	390	2.5	15,441	15,847	553	3.5	15,294
MERIDIAN	29,679	641	2.2	29,038	21,935	363	1.7	21,573
NAMPA	36,941	1,043	2.8	35,898	32,393	1,243	3.8	31,150
POCATELLO	28,248	576	2.0	27,672	28,682	811	2.8	27,871
TWIN FALLS	21,283	388	1.8	20,894	20,428	589	2.9	19,839
United States*	153,253	7,245	4.7	146,007	152,052	6,715	4.4	145,337


* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs



IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

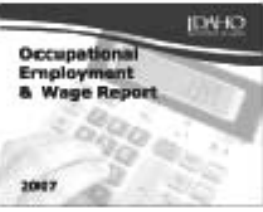

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State of Idaho Data

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Oct 2007*	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	665,100	668,300	649,300	-0.5	2.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	123,800	124,600	126,000	-0.6	-1.7
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	5,100	5,100	4,600	0.0	10.9
Logging	2,000	2,000	2,200	0.0	-9.1
Mining	3,100	3,100	2,400	0.0	29.2
Metal Ore Mining	1,000	1,000	800	0.0	25.0
<i>Construction</i>	54,200	55,000	54,400	-1.5	-0.4
<i>Manufacturing</i>	64,500	64,500	67,000	0.0	-3.7
Durable Goods	41,300	41,700	43,400	-1.0	-4.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,800	8,000	8,100	-2.5	-3.7
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,400	2,500	2,600	-4.0	-7.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,600	1,700	1,600	-5.9	0.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,800	3,800	3,900	0.0	-2.6
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,600	0.0	2.2
Machinery Manufacturing	2,800	2,900	2,900	-3.4	-3.4
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	15,500	15,600	16,900	-0.6	-8.3
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,500	3,600	3,300	-2.8	6.1
Other Durable Goods	7,000	6,900	7,600	1.4	-7.9
Nondurable Goods	23,200	22,800	23,600	1.8	-1.7
Food Manufacturing	14,800	14,500	15,100	2.1	-2.0
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	6,800	6,900	7,200	-1.4	-5.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,600	0.0	6.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,800	1,900	5.6	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	2,300	2,200	2,100	4.5	9.5
Other Nondurable Goods	2,500	2,600	2,900	-3.8	-13.8
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	541,300	543,700	523,300	-0.4	3.4
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	134,800	134,700	129,900	0.1	3.8
Trade	114,000	114,100	109,200	-0.1	4.4
Wholesale Trade	27,800	28,000	27,000	-0.7	3.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,600	12,700	12,500	-0.8	0.8
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,100	12,200	11,700	-0.8	3.4
Retail Trade	86,200	86,100	82,200	0.1	4.9
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,700	12,800	12,200	-0.8	4.1
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,700	9,900	9,700	-2.0	0.0
Food & Beverage Stores	13,000	13,100	12,700	-0.8	2.4
General Merchandise Stores	18,000	17,600	16,900	2.3	6.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,800	20,600	20,700	1.0	0.5
Utilities	2,100	2,100	2,000	0.0	5.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,700	18,500	18,700	1.1	0.0
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,600	9,500	9,500	1.1	1.1
<i>Information</i>	10,700	10,800	10,600	-0.9	0.9
Telecommunications	3,900	3,900	3,800	0.0	2.6
<i>Financial Activities</i>	33,500	33,500	32,100	0.0	4.4
Finance & Insurance	24,200	24,000	23,300	0.8	3.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,300	9,500	8,800	-2.1	5.7
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	86,400	87,600	82,100	-1.4	5.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	35,100	35,000	33,400	0.3	5.1
Scientific Research & Development	7,700	7,700	7,600	0.0	1.3
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,500	7,600	7,700	-1.3	-2.6
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	43,800	45,000	41,000	-2.7	6.8
Administrative & Support Services	42,400	43,500	39,600	-2.5	7.1
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	74,300	73,500	71,800	1.1	3.5
Educational Services	7,800	7,400	8,000	5.4	-2.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	66,500	66,100	63,800	0.6	4.2
Hospitals	17,300	17,000	15,200	1.8	13.8
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	61,400	65,000	59,300	-5.5	3.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,200	9,500	7,700	-13.7	6.5
Accommodation & Food Services	53,200	55,500	51,600	-4.1	3.1
Accommodation	8,700	9,400	8,100	-7.4	7.4
Food Services & Drinking Places	44,500	46,100	43,500	-3.5	2.3
<i>Other Services</i>	18,900	19,100	19,000	-1.0	-0.5
<i>Total Government</i>	121,300	119,500	118,500	1.5	2.4
Federal Government	12,800	13,500	13,200	-5.2	-3.0
State & Local Government	108,500	106,000	105,300	2.4	3.0
State Government	31,100	30,200	30,500	3.0	2.0
State Government Education	15,100	14,100	15,100	7.1	0.0
State Government Administration	16,000	16,100	15,400	-0.6	3.9
Local Government	77,400	75,800	74,800	2.1	3.5
Local Government Education	41,500	39,200	40,200	5.9	3.2
Local Government Administration	32,600	33,200	31,400	-1.8	3.8
Local Government Tribes	3,300	3,400	3,200	-2.9	3.1

*Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data

State Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	Oct 2007	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	766,500	769,700	753,900	-0.4	1.7
Unemployment	19,300	17,900	24,800	7.8	-22.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	2.3	3.3		
Total Employment	747,200	751,800	729,100	-0.6	2.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	768,600	768,600	754,300	0.0	1.9
Unemployment	14,600	12,800	19,300	14.1	-24.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	1.7	2.6		
Total Employment	754,000	755,800	735,000	-0.2	2.6
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	4.7	4.7	4.4		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	204.3	203.9	197.0	0.2	3.7
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	208.9	208.5	201.8	0.2	3.5
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	51,350	48,920	50,770	5.0	1.1
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	41,250	38,820	40,670	6.3	1.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	7,674	4,512	6,736	70.1	13.9
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	42,169	31,835	31,024	32.5	35.9
<i>Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾</i>					
Weeks Compensated	25,613	25,613	23,106	0.0	10.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$8,250,086	\$6,355,293	\$5,342,572	29.8	54.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$322.11	\$248.13	\$231.22	29.8	39.3
Covered Employers	51,279	51,222	49,264	0.1	4.1
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$122,297,452	\$119,326,737	\$113,744,082	2.5	7.5

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities

Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

	Oct 2007*	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	70,160	71,100	69,490	-1.3	1.0
Unemployed	2,080	1,880	2,470	10.6	-15.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.6	3.6		
Total Employment	68,080	69,220	67,020	-1.6	1.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,330	71,810	69,090	-0.7	3.2
Unemployed	1,410	1,230	1,910	14.6	-26.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.0	1.7	2.8		
Total Employment	69,920	70,580	67,180	-0.9	4.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	58,200	58,750	56,350	-0.9	3.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	11,780	11,780	11,920	0.0	-1.2
Natural Resources & Mining	630	620	510	1.6	23.5
Construction	6,390	6,410	6,540	-0.3	-2.3
Manufacturing	4,760	4,750	4,870	0.2	-2.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	920	940	1,040	-2.1	-11.5
Other Manufacturing	3,840	3,810	3,830	0.8	0.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	46,420	46,970	44,430	-1.2	4.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,050	11,060	10,450	-0.1	5.7
Wholesale Trade	1,570	1,570	1,250	0.0	25.6
Retail Trade	8,330	8,310	8,050	0.2	3.5
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,150	1,180	1,150	-2.5	0.0
Information	920	910	990	1.1	-7.1
Financial Activities	3,160	3,180	2,960	-0.6	6.8
Professional & Business Services	6,610	6,730	6,000	-1.8	10.2
Educational & Health Services	5,580	5,590	5,390	-0.2	3.5
Leisure & Hospitality	7,770	8,360	7,530	-7.1	3.2
Other Services	1,510	1,550	1,490	-2.6	1.3
Government Education	3,680	3,410	3,660	7.9	0.5
Government Administration	5,300	5,340	5,190	-0.7	2.1
Government Tribes	840	840	770	0.0	9.1

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

North Central Idaho Data — October 2007

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment — Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Wash.

	Oct 2007*	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,590	29,930	29,120	-1.1	1.6
Unemployment	980	910	1,140	7.7	-14.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.0	3.9		
Total Employment	28,610	29,020	27,980	-1.4	2.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,430	29,660	28,810	-0.8	2.2
Unemployment	830	760	940	9.2	-11.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	2.6	3.3		
Total Employment	28,600	28,900	27,870	-1.0	2.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	27,600	27,500	27,240	0.4	1.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,770	4,870	4,790	-2.1	-0.4
Natural Resources & Mining	210	220	250	-4.5	-16.0
Construction	1,570	1,630	1,430	-3.7	9.8
Manufacturing	2,990	3,020	3,100	-1.0	-3.5
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	530	540	550	-1.8	-3.6
<i>Paper Manufacturing</i>	1,080	1,100	1,090	-1.8	-0.9
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,380	1,380	1,460	0.0	-5.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,820	22,630	22,450	0.8	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,490	5,480	5,470	0.2	0.4
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	670	680	650	-1.5	3.1
<i>Retail Trade</i>	3,560	3,560	3,620	0.0	-1.7
<i>Utilities</i>	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
<i>Transportation & Warehousing</i>	1,170	1,150	1,110	1.7	5.4
Information	410	410	430	0.0	-4.7
Financial Activities	2,070	2,070	2,080	0.0	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	1,630	1,650	1,590	-1.2	2.5
Education & Health Services	4,510	4,490	4,330	0.4	4.2
Leisure & Hospitality	2,520	2,560	2,510	-1.6	0.4
Other Services	1,180	1,160	1,130	1.7	4.4
Government Education	2,290	2,150	2,230	6.5	2.7
Government Administration	1,960	1,890	1,990	3.7	-1.5
Government Tribes	760	780	690	-2.6	10.1

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southwestern Idaho Data—October 2007

Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment — Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	Oct 2007*	Sept 2007	Oct 2006	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	304,800	301,600	297,300	1.1	2.5
Unemployment	6,900	6,900	8,500	0.0	-18.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.3	2.9		
Total Employment	297,900	294,700	288,800	1.1	3.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	302,800	301,500	292,300	0.4	3.6
Unemployment	5,200	6,200	7,200	-16.1	-27.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.7	2.1	2.5		
Total Employment	297,600	295,300	285,100	0.8	4.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	282,700	280,100	272,900	0.9	3.6
Natural Resources & Construction	56,400	57,100	57,200	-1.2	-1.4
Construction	25,800	26,200	25,500	-1.5	1.2
Manufacturing	25,400	25,800	25,200	-1.6	0.8
Durable Goods	30,600	30,900	31,700	-1.0	-3.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	24,600	24,900	25,500	-1.2	-3.5
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	2,500	2,500	2,600	0.0	-3.8
Machinery Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	14,000	14,100	15,000	-0.7	-6.7
Other Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	2,900	3,100	2,700	-6.5	7.4
Food Manufacturing	6,000	6,000	6,200	0.0	-3.2
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,400	4,400	4,200	0.0	4.8
Other Nondurable Goods	700	800	700	-12.5	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	900	800	1,300	12.5	-30.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	226,300	223,000	215,700	1.5	4.9
Trade	56,300	55,800	52,800	0.9	6.6
Wholesale Trade	48,600	48,100	45,100	1.0	7.8
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	13,000	12,600	12,100	3.2	7.4
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	6,900	7,000	6,900	-1.4	0.0
Retail Trade	4,100	4,000	3,800	2.5	7.9
Food & Beverage Stores	35,600	35,500	33,000	0.3	7.9
General Merchandise Stores	4,800	4,700	4,700	2.1	2.1
All Other Retail Trade	7,300	7,300	6,800	0.0	7.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	23,500	23,500	21,500	0.0	9.3
Utilities	7,700	7,700	7,700	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Information	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0	0.0
Telecommunications	4,700	4,700	4,600	0.0	2.2
Financial Activities	1,500	1,500	1,400	0.0	7.1
Finance & Insurance	15,400	15,400	14,300	0.0	7.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	10,700	10,800	9,900	-0.9	8.1
Professional & Business Services	4,700	4,600	4,400	2.2	6.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42,000	41,100	40,700	2.2	3.2
Management of Companies & Ent.	12,500	12,000	12,200	4.2	2.5
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	5,600	5,500	5,700	1.8	-1.8
Educational & Health Services	23,900	23,600	22,800	1.3	4.8
Educational Services	33,400	32,900	32,000	1.5	4.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,300	2,300	2,400	0.0	-4.2
Hospitals	31,100	30,600	29,600	1.6	5.1
Leisure & Hospitality	10,300	10,000	9,500	3.0	8.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	24,200	24,700	24,000	-2.0	0.8
Accommodation & Food Services	2,400	3,000	3,200	-20.0	-25.0
Accommodation	21,800	21,700	20,800	0.5	4.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	2,700	2,300	2,200	17.4	22.7
Other Services	19,100	19,400	18,600	-1.5	2.7
Total Government	7,900	8,000	6,600	-1.3	19.7
Federal Government	42,400	40,400	40,700	5.0	4.2
State & Local Government	5,900	6,000	5,900	-1.7	0.0
State Government	36,500	34,400	34,800	6.1	4.9
State Government Education	13,200	12,600	13,400	4.8	-1.5
State Government Administration	4,200	3,600	4,600	16.7	-8.7
Local Government	9,000	9,000	8,800	0.0	2.3
Local Government Education	23,300	21,800	21,400	6.9	8.9
Local Government Administration	15,000	12,900	13,300	16.3	12.8
	8,300	8,900	8,100	-6.7	2.5

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

October 2007 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties

	Ada	Adams	Boise	Canyon	Elmore	Gem	Owyhee	Payette	Valley	Washington	Statewide
Civilian Labor Force	202,056	1,972	3,921	84,656	11,230	7,696	5,084	10,964	4,976	5,175	766,479
Number Unemployed	4,894	109	93	1,863	2,498	197	85	331	204	141	19,338
Percent Unemployed	2.4	93	2.4	3,828	3.0	2.6	1.7	3.0	4.1	2.7	2.5
Number Employed	197,162	2,498	3,828	82,158	82,158	7,498	4,998	10,634	4,771	5,034	747,141

South Central Idaho Data—October 2007

Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment — Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Oct 2007*	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,900	49,960	49,530	-2.1	-1.3
Unemployment	990	940	1,480	5.3	-33.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.0	1.9	3.0		
Total Employment	47,910	49,020	48,050	-2.3	-0.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,720	49,980	49,850	-0.5	-0.3
Unemployment	770	690	1,160	11.6	-33.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.6	1.4	2.3		
Total Employment	48,950	49,290	48,690	-0.7	0.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	41,380	41,850	39,350	-1.1	5.2
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>	7,890	8,290	7,070	-4.8	11.6
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,550	2,610	2,410	-2.3	5.8
Manufacturing	5,310	5,650	4,630	-6.0	14.7
Food Manufacturing	3,070	3,370	2,560	-8.9	19.9
Other Manufacturing	2,240	2,280	2,070	-1.8	8.2
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	33,490	33,560	32,280	-0.2	3.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,690	10,280	9,990	4.0	7.0
Wholesale Trade	1,990	1,980	1,890	0.5	5.3
Retail Trade	6,190	6,030	5,850	2.7	5.8
Utilities	140	140	150	0.0	-6.7
Transportation & Warehousing	2,370	2,130	2,100	11.3	12.9
Information	650	650	640	0.0	1.6
Financial Activities	1,690	1,680	1,720	0.6	-1.7
Professional & Business Services	4,720	5,160	4,790	-8.5	-1.5
Educational & Health Services	5,390	5,360	5,080	0.6	6.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3,120	3,320	3,020	-6.0	3.3
Other Services	1,470	1,490	1,430	-1.3	2.8
Government Education	3,400	3,200	3,250	6.3	4.6
Government Administration	2,360	2,420	2,360	-2.5	0.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeastern Idaho Data—October 2007

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Oct 2007*	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,640	47,120	45,140	-3.1	1.1
Unemployment	1,030	1,020	1,540	1.0	-33.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.2	3.4		
Total Employment	44,610	46,100	43,600	-3.2	2.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,020	44,840	45,360	-1.8	-3.0
Unemployment	840	740	1,270	13.5	-33.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	1.7	2.8		
Total Employment	43,180	44,100	44,090	-2.1	-2.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	40,170	40,050	40,170	0.3	0.0
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	6,020	6,040	5,900	-0.3	2.0
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	20	0.0	50.0
Construction	2,060	2,080	2,110	-1.0	-2.4
Manufacturing	4,030	3,930	3,770	2.5	6.9
Food Manufacturing	1,430	1,410	1,320	1.4	8.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	180	180	170	0.0	5.9
Machinery Manufacturing	350	370	240	-5.4	45.8
Other Manufacturing	2,070	1,970	2,040	5.1	1.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	34,050	34,010	34,270	0.1	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,430	7,330	7,390	1.4	0.5
Wholesale Trade	1,340	1,360	1,330	-1.5	0.8
Retail Trade	4,630	4,610	4,600	0.4	0.7
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,310	1,310	1,410	0.0	-7.1
Information	680	700	740	-2.9	-8.1
Financial Activities	2,300	2,290	2,150	0.4	7.0
Professional & Business Services	5,610	5,540	5,560	1.3	0.9
Educational & Health Services	3,480	3,440	3,230	1.2	7.7
Leisure & Hospitality	3,460	3,600	3,470	-3.9	-0.3
Other Services	1,130	1,170	1,150	-3.4	-1.7
Government Education	5,920	5,280	6,130	12.1	-3.4
Government Administration	4,140	4,660	4,450	-11.2	-7.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

East Central Idaho Data—October 2007

Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Oct 2007*	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,720	59,820	57,710	1.5	5.2
Unemployment	990	1,130	1,510	-12.4	-34.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.6%	1.9%	2.6%		
Total Employment	59,720	58,690	56,200	1.8	6.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,770	59,690	57,800	1.8	5.1
Unemployment	820	780	1,200	5.1	-31.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.3%	1.3%	2.1%		
Total Employment	59,950	58,910	56,600	1.8	5.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,460	52,780	50,940	-0.6	3.0
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,500	8,490	8,400	0.1	1.2
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	5,020	5,090	4,980	-1.4	0.8
Manufacturing	3,470	3,390	3,400	2.4	2.1
Food Manufacturing	1,000	940	970	6.4	3.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	300	290	260	3.4	15.4
Machinery Manufacturing	160	170	160	-5.9	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,010	1,990	2,010	1.0	0.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,960	44,290	42,540	-0.7	3.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,610	13,580	13,500	0.2	0.8
Wholesale Trade	3,940	3,910	4,000	0.8	-1.5
Retail Trade	7,820	7,810	7,700	0.1	1.6
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,790	1,800	1,740	-0.6	2.9
Information	1,230	1,230	1,260	0.0	-2.4
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,200	0.0	4.5
Professional & Business Services	5,660	6,200	5,790	-8.7	-2.2
Educational & Health Services	7,380	7,380	6,870	0.0	7.4
Leisure & Hospitality	4,400	4,550	4,730	-3.3	-7.0
Other Services	1,860	1,900	2,090	-2.1	-11.0
Government Education	3,620	3,300	2,590	9.7	39.8
Government Administration	3,900	3,850	3,510	1.3	11.1

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.